

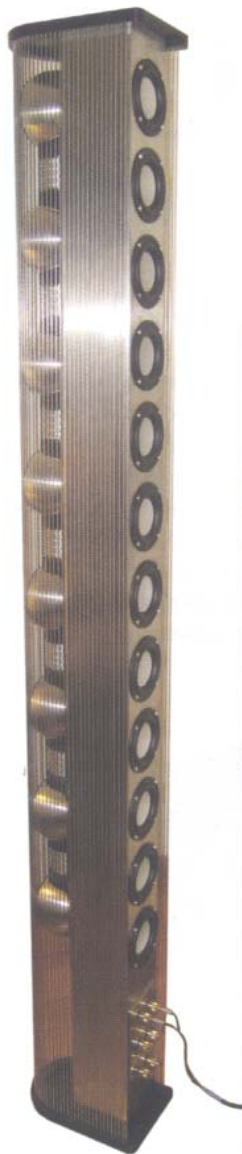
Future TAS

SCOOP! GALLO ACOUSTICS REFERENCE 5LS "STATEMENT CLASS" LOUDSPEAKER

At CES 2007, Gallo Acoustics will release a statement model called the Reference 5LS.

The Reference 5LS is a 78"-tall line source whose forward-facing side features a totem pole-like stack of drivers consisting of seven of Gallo's patented CDT semi-cylindrical piezo tweeters (offering 270°+ horizontal dispersion), interspersed between eight of the firm's 4" carbon-fiber mid/bass drivers, which are housed in semi-spherical enclosures. Neither the tweeters or the mid/bass drivers support bi- or tri-wiring, or allow bi- or tri-amplification. End users can bypass the woofer crossover to use Gallo's dedicated SA subwoofer amplifier, which provides its own volume, phase, and crossover controls.

Pricing is expected to fall in the \$12k-\$15k range. In an interview with TAS, designer Anthony Gallo said that the 5LS represents a substantial step forward from his award-winning Reference 3.1s, and that he was particularly pleased with the even, well-balanced way the line-source woofer array loads low-frequency energy into the listening space. roundsound.com



MINUS K TECHNOLOGY NASA-GRADE TABLETOP VIBRATION ISOLATION PLATFORMS

Minus K Technology builds NASA-grade vibration-isolation devices for the scientific community. But audiophiles have discovered that Minus K platforms make superb isolation systems for turntables and other components—purely mechanical devices that operate without electricity or air. Minus K claims its platforms deliver "10 to 100 times better performance than a full-size air table," yet take up much less space.

Best suited for audio applications are the BM-6 and BM-8 tabletop isolation platforms. The units are similar and offer identical 1.5Hz horizontal isolation, but the BM-6 provides 2.5Hz vertical isolation, while the more expensive BM-8 provides "true .5Hz isolation" in the vertical axis. Both measure 4.6" x 18.6" x 20", and can be ordered to support loads of 25, 50, or 100 pounds. BM-6 models range from \$1800-\$1900, while BM-8s range from \$2400-\$2500.

Minus K can provide custom versions that can accommodate oversized loads. minusk.com (check out Applications, Audio Reproduction)



NHT POWER² CLASS D AMPLIFIER

Joining the Class D movement, NHT has announced its new Power² 200Wpc stereo power amplifier, which will sell for \$1200. Obviously, the Power² offers a compelling watts/dollar ratio, but it is also a compact, cool-running unit said to offer very low distortion, extremely flat frequency response, and audiophile-pleasing sound.

Thinking ahead, NHT has designed the Power² to complement its own controller (a high performance, audiophile-oriented 7.1-channel A/V controller) and Power⁵ 5-channel power amplifier (essentially, a 5-channel version of the Power²). Interestingly, NHT's controller, Power², and Power⁵ are able to communicate with each other via a built-in, Ethernet-enabled, NHTbus ports. Power² shipments are slated to begin around the beginning of October 2006. nhtifi.com