

the absolute sound

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What ignited your interest in the high end? Did it come from the music side or the electronics side?

My interest in electronics and particularly in audio electronics began during my school days; at the time I was playing bass guitar in a small band. Consequently my first DIY projects were on the music side, building tube amps for guitar and bass. Not only for me, but also as a present for my future wife, who played in the same band. My interest in high-end audio developed only later, in the 1980s.

What gear made up your first high-end system?

My first real hi-fi system was a Thorens TD 160 with a Luxman L-410. The loudspeaker was a DIY project equipped with Iso-phon drivers. For me it was a revelation at that time!

When did audio develop from a hobby into a career?

It was back in 1992, with the founding of the Lindemann company. A logical and inevitable step was to build unique products based on our innovative engineering designs for a larger market. I simply turned my vocation into a profession. Our first products were an integrated amplifier called Amp 1, and a loudspeaker system by the name of Box 1.

What education did you receive?

I have a Master's degree in natural sciences from the Technical University of Munich, Germany.

How do you define the difference between hi-fi and high-end audio?

This question is indeed difficult to answer. I don't see any difference between the two areas as far as their essential content. The high end has developed from hi-fi. In both fields it's about music listening with excellent quality. This is no discrepancy. Personally, I rather see myself in the tradition of the hi-fi pioneers, especially from the technical approach.

Analog or digital—do you have a preference?

I really love listening to records (we are currently presenting a new series including a phono preamp), but I also love the new hi-res streaming services, above all Qobuz Sublime+. The quality of the studio masters that you can get there still leaves me speechless. Some years ago nobody would have considered possible what is achievable in terms of sound today.



How would you describe your company philosophy?

Our company is a manufacturing enterprise that has realized exceptional technical concepts for 25 years and offers them as high-class products for the interested audiophile. We are not afraid to try out something totally new in doing this. Some examples: In 1993 we had the first amplifier with current-feedback technology; 1999 saw the first CD player with upsampling; and in 2001, the very first German SACD player.

What is the greatest misunderstanding people have about today's music/media players?

Many music lovers are still convinced that music streaming is limited to inferior sound quality. And yet, with the right playback device streaming is already much better than any CD player. But you also need to subscribe to a high-quality streaming provider.

Describe a primary lesson you've learned working in the high-end audio business.

Being a techie I had to learn early in life that the circuit topology—and thus the sound—were far less important than the look, size, and weight of a device. Unfortunately, until recent times only little had changed in these respects. However, the bottom line for me today is that both the aesthetics *and* the ability to provide exceptional design and new technology allow the listener an unparalleled experience.

What are the greatest challenges confronting the high end in the next few years?

The products will become even smaller and still more capable. So I believe that the era of the large high-end system is over. On the other hand, changes in traditional marketing channels are a major challenge for us as a manufacturer. Just as in many other fields, the local specialized trade will have to give way to online distribution. Regrettably, personal advice will be provided by few, and could perhaps fall by the wayside. As makers, we must be able to counter this reality to an even greater extent.

Outside of audio, what do you do for fun?

At home I relax best by cooking, preferably with vegetables from our own garden. Other than that, I like to go mountaineering or cycling, since the Alps are easy to reach from Munich.

What inspires you about your work?

I simply have a burning passion for well-made audio electronics—and this is something you can never turn off completely. So even in my leisure time I'm often pondering over circuit layouts and new developments.

