

## Bristol HiFi Show 2019

### DNA Audio Show Report

DNA spent a busy day at this year's Bristol show, loads of interesting discussions and listening sessions. Here's a summary of what our suppliers had to offer with hot-off-the press news on new products.

#### ATC

The ATC guys were debuting two products: Their brand-new CD2 CD player and new SIA2 integrated amplifier, in combination with their really rather wonderful SCM40's. The new kit looks and sounds the part. It's really smart, sitting in a 3/4 size format. The integrated amp in particular is a serious entry into a hugely competitive market, and a big statement from a company best known for their amazing, natural-sounding speakers. We'll have both the CD2 and SIA2 in **from April** at DNA, so get in touch for a demo.

SIA2 Integrated Amplifier: £2,500

CD2 CD Player with built-in DAC: £1,500



## Rega

A big buzz around the forthcoming Aethos integrated amp from Rega. The model on display was a mock-up only, with initial models due to come off the production line June/ July. It looks really smart, with classic lines. It will be a big performer for Rega, sitting as it will in between their lauded Elicit-R and Osiris models. It favours analogue only, and won't be fitted with a phono-stage.



## Neat

Bob Surgeoner, the man behind Neat Acoustics, was indulging visitors with the sounds of their new Ekstra floorstander.



Retailing for £2,999, it features two bass drivers in two sealed chambers in an isobaric arrangement. The Ekstra packs a serious punch whilst staying true to the Neat philosophy of an honest and transparent sound. It's flexible too, and won't punish you if it's placed close to a wall.

## **Naim Audio/ Focal**

Perhaps the busiest room at the whole show was the Naim/ Focal room. This year they were concentrating on their streaming solutions, both Uniti and their NDX2. Guests were treated to auditions of Naim electronics paired with their brand-new Kanta No.1 speakers, which rocked the room. They are a truly capable performer, dealing brilliantly with a variety of musical genres.



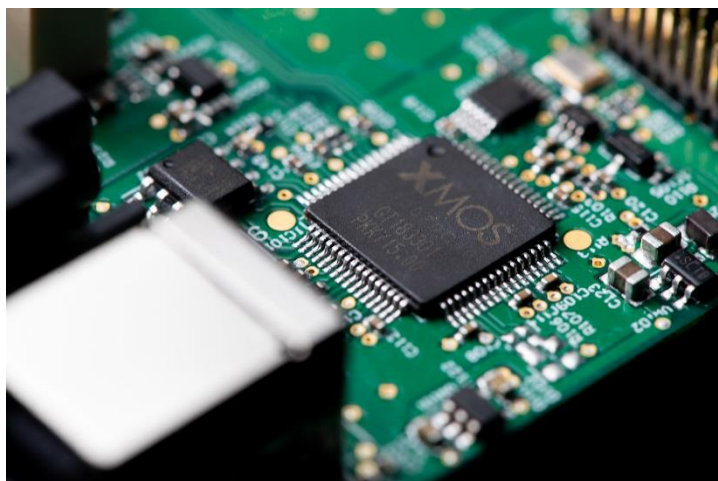
## **Chord Company**

What a job the guys at Chord have done this year – their cable seemed to be featured on pretty much everyone's stands. The Chord room too was a really interesting place to be, as Patrick Mitchell gave a talk on the evolution of the insulation that their cables use. This innovative company seems to be really going places.



## Cyrus

Things in the Cyrus room were concentrated around their QXR upgrade. The QXR card upgrade is the most significant improvement to Cyrus amplifiers in recent years, bringing a world of the highest-resolution digital inputs to products up to a decade old. Cyrus were busy all day with before-and-after demonstrations of what this upgrade is capable of.



## Quadraspire

The Quadraspire room was attracting a lot of interest. Quadraspire were busy demonstrating the sonic advantages of using their racks using the beautiful Rega P8 as a source.



However, there was also a lot of buzz around their new range of feet to help turntable stability. There are three ranges of hand-made 'QPlus' isolation feet – you can buy these now at DNA Audio.

