



## Welcome to the NHT Monthly Newsletter

"News You Can Use"

August, 2004

### ***Summertime, and the living is. . .***

. . .hot and humid, making it all the more appealing to stay inside with a cool drink, the air conditioner cranked to "11," and top-flight music and movies playing through our home entertainment systems.

NHT feels your, uh, humidity, so we packed our second issue with tips on staying sonically cool through the summer months. For example, those of us who spend extensive time in front our computers will appreciate the news about the PC Hi-Fi trend that is sweeping soundcards around the world.

Do you prefer your music homegrown? Then check out Don Bassey's guide for musicians who want to build a home studio without spending all your hard-earned cash. And, speaking of making music, celebrated producer/engineer Elliot Mazer talks about why he and his wife, Diana Reid Haig (longtime producer/engineer in her own right, not to mention author) think the new NHT Xd DEQX-calibrated DSP speaker corrected system is the perfect remedy for bad-sounding rooms.

Probably the best way to beat the heat is to enjoy your ultra-cool audio rig, and it may garner some NHT booty to boot. You'll see what we mean when you read the details of our new contest at the end of this issue.

So sit back and spin some of your favorite tunes. With NHT, the listening is easy.



### *PC Hi Fi*

It wasn't all that long ago that the very notion of a "PC Hi Fi" speaker was akin to the concept of an audiophile MP3. Sure, your computer or digital media player may store a zillion or so audio files, and you may even be one of the growing minions who tune into cyber radio stations or access tailored programming on the 'net. But, as we all know, true high fidelity is only accessible with a heavy-duty audio system and top-flight software.

#### Articles in this issue...

- [PC Hi Fi](#)
- [NHTPro Notes: By Don Bassey](#)
- [NHT Xd: Producer Elliot Mazer](#)
- [Calling all gearheads!](#)

Well, we at NHT are happy to shatter that stereotype. Being a loudspeaker developer that creates systems to satisfy specific needs, NHT recently introduced the first bona fide PC Hi Fi audio system, exclusively designed for listeners who prefer superior sound when using a PC as a two- or multichannel audio system, or when playing any of the latest computer games.

Originally developed for audio professionals who require near-field (i.e., up close & personal) monitors for mixing and mastering music, especially when on the road or working in limited spaces, NHT's M-00 (affectionately called the "Moo" by its friends and admirers) is a compact powerhouse that blows the stitches off more common PC speakers, meaning anything else that is on the market. Unlike the tinny plastic jobs that are packaged with most 'puters, the M-00 features a highly efficient 75-watt amplifier in a die-cast aluminum enclosure. Users can fine-tune performance by using a switch on the back to toggle between near- and mid- field listening, while an array of three sets of inputs - mini-jack, RCA, and XLR - further enhances function by making it easy to choose balanced or unbalanced connections.

A true PC Hi-Fi set-up requires a powerful subwoofer, so NHT offers the S-00. (That's right. "Soo.") The S-00 includes a 125W high voltage built in amplifier with low and high pass filters, and a footswitch for bypass mode. Its driver is a long-throw treated paper 8" woofer providing output down to a deep, dark 39Hz. And, to round out the selection, NHT's brilliant little Passive Volume Control offers a balanced solution for easy sound management from a small and spiffy desktop box.

Now that NHT has done its part by creating the industry's first real PC Hi Fi system, it is highly suggested that true digital aficionados go a step further by investing in one of the many advanced technology soundcards currently on the market. But, no matter what card is used, it is safe to say that the M-00/S-00/PVC combo will maximize your computer's sonic output to audiophile levels, resulting in a listening experience that is truly high-end.

Do you have a favorite source for online audio? Top- flight legal sites for sound will be published in future editions of the NHT Newsletter. For more information about PC Hi Fi, check out [www.nhthifi.com](http://www.nhthifi.com).

[Find out more about NHT PC Hi Fi Products....](#)



### **"A Home Studio Will Improve Your Life"**

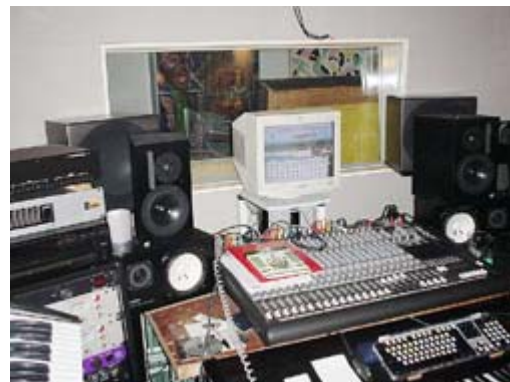
Like most of the team here at NHT, I spend my days working with speakers while my nights and weekends are filled with making music. I not only play bass, I live bass, performing every chance I can, with some of the best blues, rock, roots, and alternative musicians in and around the San Francisco Bay Area.

When I'm not making music in front of a crowd, I'm creating it in my home studio. The best part about having my own set-up is the ability to rehearse and record any time of day or night, without having to spend sky-high per-hour rental fees. But, like a lot of my musician buddies, I thought the time and investment required to create my own studio would be overwhelming. Just goes to show how wrong I can be. In fact, with just a little space, anybody can create an effective environment for playing and recording in their homes.

You should understand that I don't have a palatial mansion somewhere off the island of Madagascar. I live in a standard-size house in a standard-size community, with approximately 12' x 12' dedicated to my studio. Modern technology allows manufacturers to shrink the size of some key components while over-the-counter editing software is almost as advanced as what you will find in many top-flight studios.

When first setting out to create a home studio, remember that power is at the heart of the matter, so equip yourself with good amps, including a separate amp for headphones (minimum four-channel), plus a solid power conditioner to ensure nothing interferes with the purity of the audio signal.

The microphone array depends on what and how you record. I'm into a variety of genres, so I stick with a good condenser mic to give my vocals a real sense of "punch" and overall warmth. I also have a few good dynamic mics for instruments and amps.



Adding monitors is the easy part. NHTPro's M-00 and S-00 are compact, powerful near-/mid-field monitors that are ideal for mixing in tight or open spaces. These speakers are used by some of the biggest names in the recording business, but they are priced so that anybody on a "real world" budget can afford a system. For efficient volume control, check out NHTPro's PVC (Passive Volume Control). It's the perfect solution, no matter if you prefer balanced or unbalanced connections. When it comes to headphones, I stick with MB Quart's QP450 and QP805HS models, both of which offer the most accurate reproduction in the business.

Rounding out my rig is a PC, but that's only because I prefer the Windows platform over Mac OS. Either is fine, but make sure your box is packed with at least 2GB of memory and 40GB of storage space. I recommend using two 24/96 soundcards for four input channels, allowing the best possible performance and flexibility for the application. Add reliable editing software and CD/DVD creation programs, and you're done.

You may think that a studio of this size runs over five figures, but in fact the total price is somewhere around \$6,000, which is considerably less than many audio fans spend on their home theater systems. And, just like a home cooked meal, nothing sounds better than music that comes from your heart and soul.

by Don Bassey, Professional Products Sales Manager, NHTPro

[Check out Don's personal website »](#)



### **"A Remarkable Cure for Bad-Sounding Rooms"**

If only I had a dime for every "remarkable new audio technology" that crosses my path in a given year.

Both consumer and pro audio manufacturers are very quick to tout their latest and greatest developments as the most important introductions of all time, but, let's be honest, there can only be so many variations on a theme, especially when it comes to speaker design. Similar to a bicycle, decade after decade of changes may offer degrees of improvement in performance, but, by and large the machine itself stays the same.

My wife, Diana Reid Haig, and I enjoy our roles as producers and engineers, especially when we're presented with the luxury of having myriad companies offer us tastes of their latest products. Some are more impressive than others, but few have knocked us out quite like the new NHT Xd system.

Both Diana and I are big fans of the brand, but we aren't on the payroll. NHTPro's A-B-C and M-00/S-00 speakers are in our studio, and the Evolution system is what we listen to in our living room. Still, we weren't quite prepared for the demo we heard at The Plaza in New York last June, especially since it was held in a bad-sounding, asymmetrical room.

The NHT Xd system's tightness and clarity gave us the sense of a solid near-field array, even though we were sitting across from them in an acoustically imperfect room. This started me thinking about how I could sit in my living room at home with an NHT Xd set-up and a keyboard, mixing multichannel audio from the comfort of my couch.

One of the first things that impressed us was the way the speakers seemed to disappear. This compact system offered a more realistic sense of "being there" than we have ever experienced from any consumer or pro model. The satellites were standing square in front of us, but the sound didn't seem to come from those two small, albeit attractive boxes.



Diana and I tracked through several of our projects, and each time we heard a nuance or two that we would have changed had such a precise speaker been available at the time. I guess this is the best complement I can offer, because we know these albums backwards and forwards, right down to the individual edits. At least we can look forward to using the NHT Xd when mixing some of our upcoming projects, especially if we can do so from the vantage point of our couch.

#### **About Elliot and Diana**

Anyone who has invested a few dollars in any of the more impressive examples of high-resolution multichannel audio has at least one or two of Elliot Mazer's and Diana Reid Haig's productions in their collection. Mazer's name is affixed to some of the most memorable high-res. productions to date, including the DVD-A version of Sinatra at the Sands, as well as two of Santana's most popular recent albums, Shaman and Supernatural. Diana Reid Haig is an award-winning songwriter, annotator, and audio producer whose credits include many successful reissues of popular American music, including an Elmore James box set that won the W.C. Handy award for "Best Historical Collection." A member of the Napoleonic Society of America and the Napoleonic Alliance, her lifelong interest in Paris during the First Empire led her to research and write Walks through Napoleon & Josephine's Paris, her first book.

[Additional information about Elliot and Diana »](#)





You know who you are. From the moment you walk into your house, apartment, dorm, or cell, your eyes immediately feast upon the most outstanding audio system that looks almost as good as it sounds.

True, a few folks within your inner circle may not always appreciate the sight of such stunning equipment presented in a unique and distinguished array, but we here at NHT not only want to view the fruits of your efforts, we want to reward

you for the privilege.

Here's the deal: we need you to send up to three digital images of your setup along with a note detailing the NHT speakers and related equipment included therein, along with any anecdotes about how you came to such an arrangement and how it has affected your life. (We're nothing if not dramatic.) Each month, one winner will be chosen by our esteemed staff of experts (a.k.a., NHT employees who sit around the lunch table) as the Cool Rig of the Month. The winner will receive a gift from the NHT Chochkie treasure chest, and your pictures will be posted on our website for all to see!! Bragging rights.

Here's the catch: entrants cannot be employees of or otherwise affiliated with any employee of NHT or its parent company, nor can they be affiliated with our retail, sales representative and distribution partners. Please email your three (3) .jpg images (JPG Images Only) to [news@nhthifi.com](mailto:news@nhthifi.com). Please limit the total email file size to under 1 meg. That means each photo should be no larger than 300k each.

All entries received before the first Friday of the month are eligible to win, so if you send your stuff by September 3rd, you will be entered in the September drawing. Entries received later than September 3rd will be bounced to October. All photos received by NHT may be published on the company web site or in other materials with no subsequent fees paid to the provider. Oh yeah: at least one pair of NHT speakers must be included in your rig.



So fire up the camera and share your system with the rest of the gear-loving world. You're among friends.

Send your pictures and stories to: [news@nhthifi.com](mailto:news@nhthifi.com) »

### Quick Links...

- [NHT Evolution Products](#)
- [NHT Pro Audio Products](#)
- [NHT Authorized Dealers](#)
- [NHT Super Audio Products](#)
- [NHT Architectural Products](#)
- [NHT Press Releases](#)

email: [news@nhthifi.com](mailto:news@nhthifi.com)  
web: <http://www.nhthifi.com>