



show REPORTS

2007 CES

by Danny Kaey

Another year, another show?!

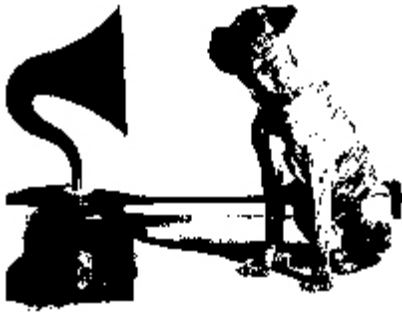
...Another great demo was Ray Kimber's/EMMLabs DSD demo. This year's surprise was what I can only describe as guttso! Typically, Ray shows off his famous multi-channel recordings to great awe and cheers from the crowds. Trying something a bit different, Ray decided to add a 128kps LAME encoded mp3 file of the same track on his demo disc, ie. the audience was able to switch tracks on the fly between the high res DSD native file to the 128k LAME file. To add further icing on the cake, the mp3 file wasn't even natively encoded. The DSD source files (including the obviously not Native-DSD Diana Krall track) were converted to 44.1 16 bit using Philips' Audio Format Converter software. The resultant WAV files were then converted to 128K MP3 via the LAME encoder in Steinberg's WaveLab mastering software. These files were loaded onto the iPod Video and played at almost max. amplitude into the ADC8 MK4 via a simple line amp to match the levels with the source DSD files. This was done to avoid doing any level changes in the DSD or PCM 8fs domain. Wow!



Over the past months I have become a total LAME supporter (much of my reasoning and findings will be revealed in an upcoming all encompassing article on mp3), so I know how good (or bad) mp3s can sound. Alas, nothing prepared me or the audience or that matter for the result: to be perfectly honest, the difference between the native DSD file to this extremely heavily processed 128k LAME encoded mp3 was not nearly as big as you'd have thought or expected—now that's saying something folks. Watching the audiences reaction each time the track was changed from DSD to mp3 was quite an interesting experience and based on the looks of some people, I am willing to bet that perhaps as much as half the people in the room probably didn't even hear a difference! Kudos to Ed Meitner for designing such amazing digital gear and another big hand to Ray Kimber for having the guts to show this demo off! Let's see if Ray can show us what LAME is truly capable of at maximum resolution—at RMAF

perhaps (hint)?!

All in all a rather hectic show for me this year—in particular, I hope to be able to attend for the full week next year; it really isn't fun running around like a chicken with its head cut off! To all those whom I didn't mention—please don't take it personal, believe me, it's not easy reporting on everything! Cheers, until next year.



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show

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CES - 2007

by Dave and Carol Clark

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...Kimber IsoMike room featured eight Sound Lab ProStat 922 loudspeakers, four Pass Labs X350.5 amplifiers, Genex Audio GX9000 with DSD-BNC interface, EMM Labs DAC8-MKIV, EMM Labs CDSD-SE, EMM Labs Switchman III, Kimber Kable D-60, Kimber Select KS 1130, and Kimber Select KS-3038 for a grand total of \$315,929. Certainly worth taking the time to listen to.

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