

[www.coolcleveland.com](http://www.coolcleveland.com)

video <http://youtu.be/TiS81u211P4>

**But the real excitement** was in newer technologies such as the ribbon-planar design of Italian manufacturer Leonardo Speakers, in which an array of micro-magnets surrounds a super-thin but extremely large sheet of aluminum foil laminated to a thin plastic diaphragm. We were attracted to this room not because of the technology, but because of word-of-mouth buzz among attendees. We were rewarded with remarkably life-like audio reproduction, with surprisingly smooth response from the very highest highs to the lowest lows, with no distortion or strain (\$65,000/pair). In fact, the entire AXPONA show could be experienced without understanding a bit about any technology, but by simply moving from room to room and using your ears.

**Those same impressive** Leonardo Speakers were being driven by Audio Power Labs 50 TNT amplifiers (\$47,500/pair for stereo), based in Columbus, Ohio. They suggested we go down the hall and visit a competitor who was showing another impressive rig. And so we travelled from room to room and floor to floor, occasionally interviewing some of the owners and engineers and designers, and even a self-proclaimed audiophile with no industry affiliation.

[www.hometheatreshack.com](http://www.hometheatreshack.com)

### Official Show Report



The equipment in use:

Component	MSRP
Audio Power Labs 50TNT Monoblock Amp (2)	\$47,500 / pair
The Memory Player 64 Music Server	\$27,000
Leonardo speakers	\$65,000 / pair

The Leonardo speakers are a full ribbon speaker that has a stated FR of 20 Hz - 100,000 Hz. No, that is not a typo - a full ribbon speaker that goes down to 20 Hz! It has a sensitivity of 93 db and weighs 350 lbs - 110 lbs in magnets alone. These speakers image really well - they just completely disappear which is fairly astounding considering their size. The dynamic range was fantastic - female vocals tracks really showed the range - and they had a very open, natural, enveloping soundstage. The amount of detail in the instruments was off the charts - I could hear everything from the buzz of the horns to the pluck of a string. Last, I was astounded at how low these speakers could go - and cleanly!

A fantastic experience - I would never have believed a full ribbon could dig that deep unless I was there to hear it!

No room treatment was used.

Read more: <http://www.hometheatershack.com/forums/forum-announcements-news/66134-axpona-2013-official-show-report-joe-alexander-hts-4.html#ixzz2Nnq95ZVk>

[www.theabsolutesound.com](http://www.theabsolutesound.com)

#### AXPONA 2013 - PART 4

By [Scot Hull](#) | Mar 19th, 2013

The [Leonardo](#) Model 8 loudspeaker (\$65k/pair) uses a push-pull ribbon-planar arrangement to move the air. It's neat. And it was set up here with no toe-in and only about a foot off the sidewall. Not what you'd think would be an ideal setup, would you? Well, it was working! The speakers were paired with some truly posh-looking Art Deco styled 50TNT 50wpc monoblocks from [Audio Power Labs](#) (\$47,500/pair). [Laufer Teknik](#)'s Memory Player 64 music server was used as a DAC and preamp (\$17,500 base price) and [Kaplan](#) power cords with [High Fidelity Cables](#) CT-1 Ultimate signal cables rounded out the setup. A happy discovery, this room; the sound was extremely clear and coherent. I went in with a smile and left with a grin....



[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

Leonardo ribbon planar loudspeakers, Audio Power Labs 50TNT monos. **Amazing.**



[www.audiokarma.org](http://www.audiokarma.org)

### Leonardo Speakers Audio Power Labs Memory Player 64

You probably read more audio rags than I do, and are already familiar with all this Italian gear. Right? Well if not, join the club. I felt ignorant walking in, since I didn't know. But once in, I realized there was no literature, no name placards. Nothing. Apparently the gentleman running the room was showing off the Memory Player 64. But in truth, when one sits and auditions a system they are unfamiliar with, one tends to gravitate to the speakers and amps, right? He didn't want to talk about them. Anyway, you should Google the gear. The room was a really nice surprise. The speakers are planar magnetic similar to Apogee Diva or newer Maggies (since all three use true ribbon drivers for tweeters). I liked them better than the Kingsound, but my friend like the Kingsound better. **The system synergy was wonderful. Bass integration was wonderful.** No prices or even manufacturer names anywhere in the room. I did find an internet price of \$60k on the speakers. **If you are in the market for nice planars, don't rule them out.** I can't say much about the amp other than it was big, neat looking and I believe quite pricey as well. A data sheet would've been nice here. **At no time did I realize he was only selling a file-server-dac-thingy, although I suppose that is my fault. Another great room anyway.**

[www.head-fi.org](http://www.head-fi.org)

**The audio power labs room was amazing sounding they had a leonardo planar speaker paired with their equipment.** The amps were very attractive looking tube mono blocks. Each amp has six tubes with one rather large tube. They were using the memory cd player if I am correct and the sound was gloriously relaxed and analog like for digital music. The speakers are rather large magnepan like speakers which I believe were from italy if I can recall. They were set up only about a couple of feet from the side walls and **I was amazed at how coherent this room sounded. The speakers just disappeared and the room boundaries just disappeared as well. The exhibitor played back several digital file recordings including a sarah vaughn recording that sounded like she was in the room and things just sounded so analog like. I was at this room a bit longer than most.**



## Laufer Teknik Wows

By Jason Victor Serinus • Posted: Mar 15, 2013



Both at and post-show, Buffer (aka L. Langdon Ergmann, Jr.) was charmingly apologetic. Having read my "As We See It," "There's No Business without Show Business," in the April issue of *Stereophile* just hours before I walked into his Laufer Teknik room, he knew that his inability to supply a list of components and prices, add a track to his Memory Player from one of my six USB sticks, or even tell me what music was playing on his own music server (as in "We don't have an internet connection, so we can't identify the track") had left him a prime candidate for the Duncecap Dealer of the Day award.

In the end, however, the music's the thing. When it came to sound, whatever was playing had such a beautiful midrange, wonderful soundstage, admirably neutral tonality, and overall superior presentation of guitar and voices that it became a prime candidate for the Extremely Music Award Du Jour. And, Lord knows, it sure looked fabulous.

Doing the honors were Audio Power Labs' 50TNT 50W, class-A monoblock tube amplifiers (\$47,500/pair); Laufer Teknik's The Memory Player 64 music server/recorder w/analog DAC (\$17,500 base price); the Leonardo Model 8 ribbon-planar loudspeaker (\$65,000 complete with flight cases and Stillpoint Ultra 5 feet); High Fidelity Cables CT-1 Ultimate interconnect (\$4950/1.5m RCA pair), Ultimate speaker cable (\$9300 2m pair), and Wave Guide AC conditioner (\$10,000 w/8 receptacles), and, to cut things short before my fingers start to ache, five Kaplan Cable power cables, an Audio Magic Oracle 24 EMI/RFI attenuator, 13 Stillpoints Ultra 5 and 9 Ultra 5 bases (\$9727 total), and 4 Music Direct Solidsteel amp stand Bs. I wish there had been time to listen some more.

## Audio Asylum Forum



In Reply to: [Kingsound Room at Axpona](#) posted by **Mike Mount** on March 11, 2013 at 18:49:01:

I liked the Leonardo [planars](#) better. I didn't have to 'sit in the sweet spot' to enjoy them. In fact standing at the back of the room allowed for a realistic soundstage. I listened sitting Friday and standing Saturday, little difference. Posted by [Mike Mount \(A\)](#) on March 13, 2013 at 12:30:54

In Reply to: [I won't know before anyone else](#) posted by **Ktem** on March 13, 2013 at 11:40:58:

were/are like Apogeos on steroids, with the dual magnet / panel drive. They were STRIKING in their body and extension. Posted by [panhead \(A\)](#) on March 12, 2013 at 09:32:43

In Reply to: [RE: Kingsound Room at Axpona](#) posted by **mt10425** on March 11, 2013 at 19:11:44:

Big difference in price, the Kings are an almost affordable \$12,000 while the Leonardos are an out of the question \$65,000.

I liked the Leonardo the best. Very unusual setup having them up against the walls. A full range ribbon, what a concept. Had to really look around to find something on these.

<http://leonardospeakers.com/technology-e-features/>

I listened to the Kings longer than anything. Have wanted to hear these for many years. Found out at the show there is a dealer up by the state line. Cant wait to cruise up there and listen to them with some of my fav disks. I thought they were very articulate especially for using an Oppo 95 as a source. On first listen I thought they were better than the maggies.

<http://www.kingsaudio.com.hk/press.html>

Included links so you can see what we are talking about. Posted by [Mike Mount \(A\)](#) on March 12, 2013 at 13:45:25

In Reply to: [I liked both](#) posted by **panhead** on March 12, 2013 at 09:32:43:

Cost and performance ratio, Kingsound kicks @\$#!

I could [imagine](#) (afford) them in my listening room.

The Leonardo [speakers](#) were striking and left a hell of an impression on me, in every way... I feel they did everything right.

I would buy the Kingsound, dream of the Leonardo's