



Sony TA-F44ES

Sony ES project

After the regrettable demise of Sony's prestigious "Esprit" range in the UK it is good to hear that the company will be supporting its well-received CDP-302ES, CDP-502ES and CDP-552ES/DAS-702ES Compact Disc players with a range of high quality audio separates called the "ES project". The new range is to include two integrated amplifiers, two tuners, a cassette deck, two loudspeakers, three headphone pairs and a variety of accessories. There has been some design input from Sony UK, and this reflects the high esteem in which British hi-fi expertise and specialist opinion is held by the parent company. The range is characterized by the extensive use of high quality components, including the use of Linear Crystal, Oxygen-Free Copper (LCOFC) for the internal wiring. The accessories will include interconnect leads for line-level and speakers made of LCOFC.



Sony Discman

Sony are also introducing into the UK their new portable CD player, the Discman which at 127 x 132.5 x 31.5mm is claimed to be the world's smallest. The asking price of £259 covers the player, its rechargeable battery pack, an AC adaptor, carrying case and shoulder strap. Sony (UK) Ltd., Sony House, South Street, Staines, Middx TW18 4PF.

Presence for all

As mentioned briefly in "Audio News" last month, Presence Audio has announced its being appointed UK distributor for eight more manufacturers' products, bringing the total number of items it represents up to 15. Brands handled to date include Audiostatic, Decca, Jecklin, MDM, Odyssey, Vecteur and Zarathustra, and the new products continue this mixture of the regular and the exotic.

Glantz pickup cartridges are on the list, with three moving-coils and

three moving-magnets ranging from £21.95 for the MFG-110EX to £129 for the prestige GMC-20E. Also handled now is the Kiseki range of top-end cartridges, which start at £295 for the "Blue Silverspot" and head on up to the hand-built and 'tuned' "Lapis Lazuli" at an astronomical £2,000. Slightly more affordable is the Millteck "Aurora" high output moving-coil cartridge at £195.

Much talked about in audio circles lately is the Nuance preamplifier, designed by Dr Malcolm Hawksford of the University of Essex and built in France by Famco. A 'minimalist' design costing £695, it is widely considered to be setting new standards. The phono stage is optimized for MC but an MM version will be available. Also from Famco is an 80W/channel power amplifier, the Plenitude, which matches the Nuance in style and price.

Other items include the Interface range of accessories from Holland, the well regarded Jecklin Float headphones (now in a revised version), various exotic interconnects and a limited number of the famous, and highly regarded in its time, Decca/Kelly loudspeaker, with its ribbon horn unit and 200mm bass driver. At £195/pair, compared with the list price of £460, this is a bargain indeed for devotees. Presence Audio, Eastland House, Plummers Plain, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6NY.



Decca Kelly loudspeaker

Akai arrivals

Two new cassette decks, the GX-R60 and GX-R70, join the range of new products recently introduced by Akai (see also the AM-A70 amplifier review on page 1480). Among numerous features, these incorporate auto tape selection for normal, chrome and metal tapes, dbx noise reduction in addition to Dolby B and C, and "Twin Field" record heads which are guaranteed for 10 years. The '70 also has a "Spectrum Meter" and "Computer Recording Level Processing" systems which can optimize the

record level going on to tape, without risking overload. Prices are £299 for the '60 and £349 for the '70.

Also new is a modestly priced nine-band graphic equalizer, the EA-A22 (£69.90). This has independent L/R controls which can boost or cut the level within a 12dB range. Tape record/replay as well as line in/out sockets are provided so that the unit can be patched-in to almost any set-up either in a tape loop or between pre and power amplifiers. Akai (UK) Ltd., 12 Silver Jubilee Way, Haslemere Heathrow Estate, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 6NF.

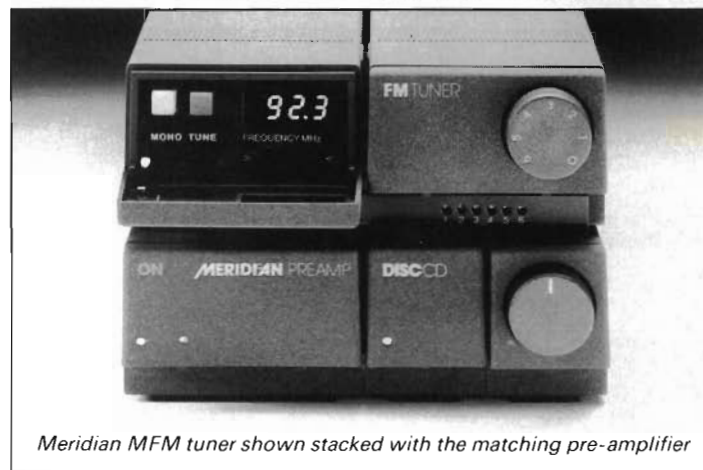


Akai GX-R70

Meridian tuner

Meridian have released an FM tuner, the MFM, to match their Component Amplifier System. Simplicity of operation, neat appearance and excellent sound quality are its main claims to fame. A two-box unit, the tuner uses a separate mains transformer so it can be used as a 'stand

alone' item in other systems as well as *in situ* with its companions in the Meridian range. Six preset stations are provided, with tuning via screw-driver-adjusted presets on the RH (as shown) module. The selected frequency is displayed on a digital readout. Price of the MFM is £359. Boothroyd Stuart Ltd., 13 Clifton Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7EJ.



Meridian MFM tuner shown stacked with the matching pre-amplifier

Monitor Audio speaker Interference suppression

New from Monitor Audio is the R652 two-way reflex loaded loudspeaker. The bass/mid driver is Monitor Audio's own, using a polypropylene-type cone with a nitrile rubber surround on a diecast aluminium chassis. The tweeter is a commercially-sourced unit customised to MA's requirements, with a large magnet and Ferrofluid damping to provide high output levels with the minimum of distortion. Dimensions are 630 x 270 x 590mm and the available finishes Walnut, Teak or Black, with Yew, Rosewood, Oak and Mahogany to order. Price is £299 per pair. Monitor Audio Ltd., Unit 34, Clifton Road, Cambridge.

EMC Datacare Ltd., Power Court, Luton, Beds LU1 3JJ, have introduced a "clamp-on" universal interference suppressor which, unusually, can be fitted to existing leads without the need to remove a connector from one end. Interference breakthrough can be picked up from aerial, microphone, interconnecting, loudspeaker or mains leads and the simple expedient of winding several turns of the lead through a ferrite core can often solve the problem. EMC supply a kit of eight clamp-on core pairs together with assembly hardware and full instructions for £25.30 inclusive of delivery.