

Nov./Dec. 2006  
Volume 5 Issue 6

## Recent and Upcoming Events

### CES

**January 8 - 11, 2007**

Wilson Audio will be in a  
Penthouse Suite in  
The Mirage  
Schedule Your Appointment!

**Nov. 7 - 9, 2006**

NYSS Home Theater  
Middletown, NY  
Dealer Training  
with Peter McGrath

**Nov. 29 - 30, 2006**

Sound Environment  
Lincoln, NE  
Dealer Training  
with John Giolas

**Dec. 5 - 7, 2006**

Goodwin's High End  
Waltham, MA  
Dealer Training  
with Peter McGrath

# WILSON® AUDIOFILES

## Wilson Audio's Modular Subwoofer System

"New and Improved" is a phrase used so often it's become trite and perhaps cynically equated with paying more for less. Given this, Wilson Audio introduces the WATCH Dog: it's *new and improved* modular subwoofer system.

Modular thinking is not new to Wilson Audio. Wilson has pioneered the use of purpose built modules starting with WAMM (Wilson Audio Modular Monitor) and continues to employ technology involving aspherical propagation delay in award winning products such as Alexandria X-2. The MAXX Series 2 and the WATT/Puppy System 8 use modular technology to their advantage as well.

The new modular subwoofer system emerged from the critically acclaimed WATCH Dog. With great reviews (see SoundStage.com Equipment Archives Sept. 2004) and consistently strong sales, one might ask, "Why not leave well enough alone? Why fix what isn't broken?" These questions lead to more questions such as, "Is there any way to improve on what already is? Is there a way to increase the Dog's performance?"

In part, the answer to those questions with regard to the WATCH Dog is that a modular approach would offer unmatched system flexibility. Originally, the entire WATCH line was conceived by our Special Applications Engineering department. After much research into problems and solutions unique to home theater, Wilson Audio introduced the WATCH (Wilson Audio Theater Comes Home) system, which includes the WATCH Center, the WATCH DOG, and the WATCH Surround speakers. The WATCH line was greeted enthusiastically. Such was the Dog's performance, it became clear that although the WATCH Dog was designed primarily for use in a multi-channel home theater application, many Wilson clients were integrating WATCH products into two-channel environments. A modular approach with the WATCH Dog would give each end user more ability to integrate and control his system, whether home theater, two-channel, or both.

By removing the amplifier and the EQ controls from the enclosure, two new products were created: The Passive WATCH Dog and the WATCH Controller. One need only purchase the necessary WATCH system components, customizing the subwoofer for each system. For example, in home theater applications, in conjunction with a surround processor's bass management and amplifier, (Cont. on pg. 2 as "Modular")



**The Passive WATCH Dog began shipping in September 2006 and is available world-wide. The original WATCH Dog was shipped beginning in March 2001.**

## Modular (Cont. from pg. 1)

only the Passive Dog would be necessary for state-of-the-art theater bass. In systems where music is the focus, add the WATCH Controller, Wilson's electronic crossover and bass management system. Where it is desirable to use more than one subwoofer, multiple Dogs can be used with a single Controller.

An added bonus: The Passive Dog is one-third smaller than the original powered Dog, making it even friendlier to domestic environments.

In a combined home theater/two channel setup, the Controller's flexible input switching enables optimization for both. When watching a movie, the Controller takes the signal from the low frequency effects (LFE) output from your surround processor passing it on to the WATCH Dog. When listening to music, the controller becomes a full-function crossover and a versatile equalizer. You can switch effortlessly between those two functions with a flick of the switch – or automate the switch with a 12-volt trigger.

The Controller features adjustable crossover frequency and slope and continuously variable phase, allowing seamless integration between the WATCH Dog and the speaker with which it is mated. In addition, room-induced colorations and standing waves can be minimized with



**The WATCH Controller, currently available ONLY in the United States, includes a series of 12-volt triggers. These allow remote control access by outside control systems, which provides more convenient and seamless operation of the WATCH Controller within home theaters and complex audio systems.**

the Controller's unique bass equalization. The Controller accepts both single-ended and balanced inputs. And while almost all powered subwoofers are saddled with much lower-quality amplifiers than those used for the main speakers, the WATCH Dog system allows you to choose the amplifier that best matches the quality of the rest of your home theater or music system.

"New and Improved?" For over two decades, Wilson Audio has passionately designed and built audio products that truly redefine the art. Wilson Audio has set the standard for the ultimate in loudspeaker design with the Alexandria X-2, the MAXX, the WATT/Puppy, and the Duette. The same uncompromising approach in design, materials, and construction continues in The Modular WATCH Dog.

## Product Specifications

### Passive WATCH Dog:

**Enclosure:** Front Ported

**Woofers:** 12 inch {30.48 cm}

**Nominal Impedance:** 8 ohms

**Sensitivity:** 89 dB @ 1 watt  
{2.83v @ 1 meter}

### Overall Dimensions:

Height: 26 1/2" {67.31 cm}

Depth: 24" {60.96 cm}

Width: 18" {45.72 cm}

### Weight:

Uncrated: approx. 208 lbs. {94.35 kg}

Approx. Shipping Weight:

285 lbs. {129.27 kg}

### WATCH Controller:

#### Input Impedance:

56K ohms single-ended, 4 ohms bal.

**Inputs:** Balanced, single-ended, processor

#### Low Pass Filter:

Level & Frequency {30 to 150 Hz}

Adjustable, 12 dB or 18 dB/Octave

#### High Pass Filter:

Level & Frequency {30 to 150 Hz},

Adjustable, 6 dB or 12 dB/Octave

**Phase:** 0 - 180 degrees, continuously variable

**EQ:** Variable Frequency {30 to 150 Hz.},  
Level (+/- 10 dB), and Q {.2 to 2}

#### Weight:

Out of Box with Power Cord: 16.75 lbs.

{7.6 kg}

Approx. Shipping Weight:

18.95 lbs. {8.6 kg}

## Wilson Audio Building Expansion Makes Significant Progress



With the majority of work on the outside of Wilson Audio completed and with the change in weather, construction is now focused inside the building. Most of the new offices, including the shipping and receiving offices shown above, have been framed in and sheetrocked.



Paint shop personnel are pleased that the physical installation of three new paint booths is nearing completion. Installation of the overhead ducting and electrical work are the next steps in the project. Test runs for the new booths are tentatively scheduled by Christmas.

## WATT/Puppy System 8 Review

The Japanese High End Audio publication *Stereo Sound*, in Issue # 160, ran a review of the System 8. A translation of reviewer Koji Miura's article says, in part, "The WATT and Puppy, products that define high-end audio, have again achieved a leap forward into the new System 8....The excellent audio of this system is a given, and the settling feeling of live music that it produces is superb. In my listening notes, I wrote, 'the translation into music has great precision.' I have fallen in love all over again with the sound of the newest WATT and Puppy."

## New Audio Publication on Horizon

Issue One of *HIFICRITIC* is slated for mailing in January 2007 and will appear bi-monthly thereafter.

According to editor Paul Messenger, "We've called this magazine *HIFICRITIC*, because that's precisely what it's intended to be."

To learn more about the subscription-only, review oriented magazine that does not accept advertising, see [hificritic.com](http://hificritic.com).

**Wilson Audio wishes its dealers, distributors, and loyal customers a joyous Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!**

Excerpted with permission from *Stereophile*, November 2006

## Wilson Audio Sophia Series 2 Loudspeaker by Brian Damkroger

"Instead, what I noticed was that although the Sophia's fundamental character hadn't changed, the 2 did sound and feel somewhat different from the 1. Two things I noticed immediately were that the 2's bass seemed more powerful than the 1's, and that the 2's soundstage was wider, deeper, and noticeably more open.

"...Another thing I heard was that the leading edges of the Sophia 2's bass notes were clearer, temporally sharper and more certain, and imbued with more inner detail.

"...Mady Mesplé's voice in *Lakmé* now sounded purer and more natural, comprising a more complex mix of nuances and textures. These effects were most apparent at the loudness extremes: In very soft phrases, there was more 'there' there - kind of like turning up a digital video display's color intensity to sharpen a bland image.

The improvement in purity was most obvious at the other extreme; at high volume levels, it was more like turning down the contrast on a hashy video display to better see the images' details. With the Sophia 2, the orchestral image was also more three-dimensional, with individual instruments occupying more specific points in space.

"...Sophia 2 seemed to reproduce the most extreme high-level, high-frequency violin-section crescendos without breaking a sweat, retaining their natural ease and detail better than I've heard anywhere outside a concert hall.

"...anyone looking for no-compromise performance in a loudspeaker of real-world size and price can stop looking. To paraphrase Paul Bolin: Oh wow, the Sophia Series 2 is a *wonderful* speaker."



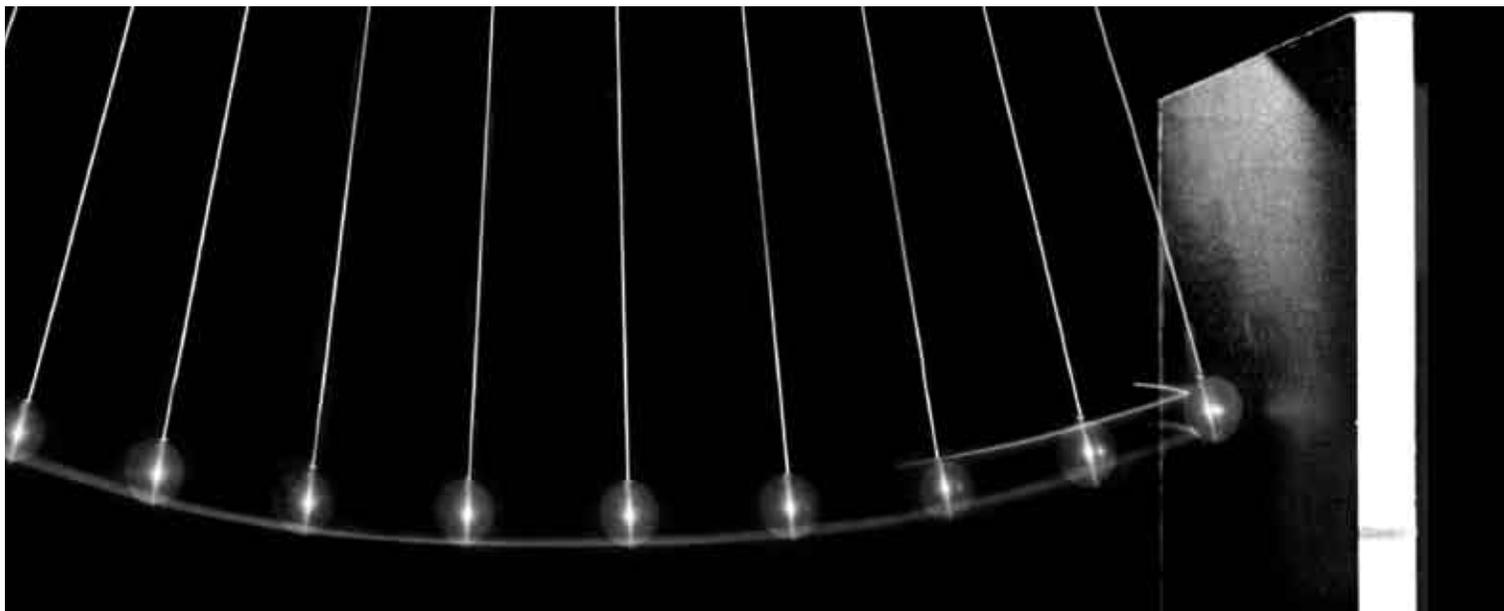
Placing Rocks for Large Waterfall



Stream Feeding Pond

Work on the landscaping has begun. In addition to the original pond, a feeder stream and small waterfalls will be included. The landscaping is meant to be both practical and aesthetically pleasing. The new features will help keep the pond from being stagnant, will assist with algae control and filtration, and will provide a run-off area from the parking lot to deal with rain or snow fall.

# the sound of silence



What you see in the photograph above is a steel ball striking an inch thick piece of one of Wilson Audio's proprietary cabinet materials—in this case legendary X material. The purpose of this test is not to demonstrate that X material can resist being hit by steel balls; that's a given. In fact, X material is so rigid, a one inch board foot could withstand the weight of three F15 fighter jets.

Over the years, Wilson has conducted more research into the sonic properties of various materials than any other loudspeaker company. The original quest was to find the ideal cabinet material. But Wilson's engineers quickly came to understand a basic acoustic principle: no single material is suited for all loudspeaker applications. The cabinet "wish list" of midrange drivers is fundamentally different from the desires of the woofer.

Each material has its own "sound," determined largely by three factors: a) the resonant frequency of the material b) its monotonicity (does it ring just one frequency with no overtones?) and c) damping (how long does it ring?). How this impacts (pun intended) the sound of a loudspeaker is an object lesson in the complex interplay of physics, more worthy of a textbook than a magazine ad.

One paradox that has long plagued speaker designers: materials that provide excellent damping are typically soft. Soft cabinets are poor launching pads for the loudspeaker's drivers. The beauty of modern composites (X material) and laminates (M material) is they can be engineered to be at once rigid and highly damped.

All of Wilson's cabinet materials, including X (which has proven its superiority as a bass cabinet composite) and M (which mates beautifully with midrange drivers), have undergone years of development—from theoretical computer modeling to steel ball tests. The final and most critical experiment is to listen to each material in blind comparisons. No matter how good a material looks on paper, it must ultimately possess the rare ability to convey musical beauty.

Even then, the process isn't done. The restless quest for perfection at the heart of the culture at Wilson Audio dictates that the search for new and better materials is never done. So if you ever have the opportunity to visit the Wilson facilities, don't be surprised if you hear, from behind a closed laboratory door, the faint sound of a steel ball hitting a solid object.

## Wilson Audio · Authentic Excellence

