

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

The best of the last 50 (issues)!

by Alan Sircom

Every time some kind of celebratory issue comes around, it's custom to take advantage of the anniversary to look back at the time between that issue and the last great anniversary. Our last birthday issue was our 100th edition, back in 2012. Since then, a lot has changed in the audio world, and rather than simple navel gazing, we thought it best to look at some of the best products we've seen in those last 50 issues.

The criteria is simple, and stands apart from our annual awards selection process: they needed to be good, they needed to be interesting, and they needed to still be in production. This last is key, both in terms of discussing viable products in today's market, but also as a means to highlight one of the big changes in audio recently. The fascination of audio is its staying power. Remarkably, there are products still on sale today that were on sale back in issue one. In fact, there are products on sale today that were available in the 1960s or even earlier if you look hard enough. No other branch of consumer electronics has that kind of product life.

This is changing, however. What was surprising in trawling through the contents lists issues 100-149 was first how few companies have disappeared, despite repeated dire warnings about the state of the audio industry. However, many of the products of the last five or so years were only on the shelves for maybe two years or less. Some of this reflects the shift to streaming and headphone devices in recent years. Enjoy the best of the best!

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IsoTek EVO3 Initium

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Really good power cords are usually expensive, but the EVO3 Initium cable is one of the rare exceptions. It's a fine addition to the audio market, and the first step in a fine world of IsoTek power products.

