

THE ULTIMATE HI-FI SHOW



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As German hi-fi journalists, we're lucky: we don't have to pack a heavy suitcase and take flights to visit the world's biggest high-end audio exhibition. The annual HighEnd show takes place on our doorstep, and in a city which is always worth a visit.

More than 900 brands from all over the world came to Munich this year, giving the event a new exhibitor record, while total visitor numbers were up 10% and the number of trade visitors – from 78 countries – showing even greater increases. But just that number of brands only scratches the surface of the incredible range of products on show at the M.O.C exhibition center: whether retro-hi-fi, vinyl, portables, headphones or network music - everything was amply represented.

The trends, however, were rather more undercover – literally so, being hidden inside many of the products on show. New sound formats such as MQA and DSD are implemented, and analogue and digital linked – a pleasing development, removing the question of whether vinyl really sounds better than network hi-fi. You see, anyone who owns a high-performance phono preamp like Pro-Jects "Phono Box DS2 USB" can do both, so end of discussion!

On the following pages we will give you a comprehensive insight into this year's HighEnd. And if you are thinking about coming to the show next year, here's another incentive: to sit in one of the famous Munich beer gardens, you don't even have to leave the show...

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