

# The Art of sound

**Touraj Moghaddam** has been challenging audio system performance at every level for 25 years. Here he describes how it's possible to enjoy real live music excitement at home...

**M**usic is our only universal language, one of life's greatest joys. And a good hi-fi should bring the joy of music into your home.

Many people think, OK, that is live music; and this is what I have at home. They don't link the two. What we're trying to do at Vertere Acoustics is link the two. Everyone has experienced a live band, how enthralling and captivating it can be. Unfortunately, when it comes to the home environment, it's often more an experience of sound, rather than the music. There are people fortunate enough to have a real musical experience at home. But most don't know what they're missing, or they don't think it's possible. Worse still, some think they don't deserve it! They wrongly assume they don't have the ears to appreciate a good system.



## As good as live music?

So I ask them, "Do you enjoy live music?" Then I'll say, if you can hear the difference between an average band and a good band, you can tell the difference between good and bad hi-fi. You might eat fast food occasionally, but you know the difference between that and a good meal! Not every hi-fi is capable of getting anywhere near the live music experience, but there are some which are.

If you have favourite artists, and have seen them live, you've experienced the feeling of the way they perform.



**Above:** Touraj Moghaddam

**Inset:** A hi-fi is only as good as its cables

When that performance is recreated by a hi-fi, it should automatically give you some of that feeling. Just like a perfume, where a certain scent can shoot you back to another place and time. But in any hi-fi system, the weakest link is the limiting factor. It's a bottleneck that's compromising the performance of the other components. It's what stops the music getting through as well as it should. Until you enlarge that bottleneck, you'll never know how big the bottle is!

Surprisingly, the first and most important weak link turns out to be the least-suspected component in the system – the interconnecting cables! If you're not aware of this, you can spend a lot of time and money on other parts of the system, and end up with no real improvement. Too often, cables are considered just to be accessories and they're incorrectly used to "voice" the system, to change the sound.

In reality, the cables are a component of the system. Although they have no moving parts or transistors, they are just as important as the amplifier or the speakers. Their function is to conduct the audio signal as perfectly as possible, not to change it. I couldn't find any cables at any price that were good enough, so I decided to design and make my own. When the cables are doing their job, you appreciate the other components more. And the more you appreciate the music the more you get to the whole point of listening to music! You're no longer listening to the sound of the equipment. You are enthralled by the performance.

*Leading hi-fi designer, Touraj Moghaddam, was speaking to Steve Harris, Editor of Hi-Fi News, 1986-2005.*

## Contact Details

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