



Constellation Audio announces updates to its Performance and Reference Series lines at the 2013 CES in Las Vegas

Numerous upgrades and new models expand and enhance the most praised high-end audio product line of the decade.

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NEWBURY PARK, CA, JANUARY 21, 2013 — At the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Constellation Audio introduced significant upgrades to key products in its Performance and Reference lines. These announcements include the Virgo II, an upgraded version of the Virgo Performance Series preamp; Altair II, a substantially modified and upgraded version of the Altair Reference Series preamp; and Hercules II, a new, horizontal-format version of the tower-style Hercules Reference Series amplifier. Two entirely new products in the Performance Series were also announced, as was the shipment of the Performance Series Cygnus DAC/file player and Perseus phono preamp.

“The products we’ve launched in the last two years have earned numerous Best Sound in Show and Product of the Year awards all around the world,” company CEO and president Murali Murugasu said. “Even though these products have been called ‘the world’s best’ many times, we received feedback from dealers and customers that we thought could make the products even better-sounding and more user-friendly.”

Here are brief descriptions of the changes in Constellation Audio’s product lines.

PERFORMANCE SERIES

Virgo II line stage: The Virgo II upgrades the original Virgo with a dual-mono power supply taken from our original Altair Reference series line stage. The new power supply fits underneath the Virgo II chassis, and existing Virgo units can also be upgraded to use the new power supply. With this new supply, Virgo II’s sound quality takes a dramatic step up, with better dynamics, detail and soundstaging. In addition, the front LCD control screen has been improved with larger fonts and higher contrast for easier visibility. Virgo II also adds new convenience features such as a home theater bypass mode and a DC trigger output for automatic amplifier power on and off. *Available Q2 2013.*

Cygnus DAC/file player: Cygnus is available in two versions: a DAC-only model and a model that combines a digital file player and a DAC. Cygnus uses multiple DAC chips per channel in a complementary, perfectly balanced configuration for sound quality that will surpass the expectations of even the most demanding audiophile. Cygnus accepts USB input from computers as well as digital signals from CD players and the like. The file player version also works with USB hard drives and memory sticks. To both, Constellation Audio has added a double-precision DSP-based volume control, allowing Cygnus to be used without a preamp, as well as the same substantially improved dual-mono power supply used for Virgo II. *Available Q1 2013.*

Perseus phono preamp: The Perseus employs a phono preamp circuit created by John Curl, the legendary engineer widely regarded as the audio industry's greatest master of phono preamp design. Not only is it Curl's finest design to date, it also benefits from the same perfectly balanced Line Gain Stage circuit topology found in other Constellation Audio products. RIAA EQ low-pass and high-pass filtration can be independently fine-tuned in five increments. For the two moving-coil inputs, resistive loading is continuously adjustable from 0 to 1000 ohms. For the moving-magnet input, both capacitance and resistance can be user-adjusted. Perseus has also been upgraded with the same dual-mono power supply as Virgo II and Cygnus. *Available Q1 2013.*

Performance Series integrated amplifier: This upcoming product will combine Constellation Audio's advanced balanced/bridged amplifier topology with its perfectly balanced Line Gain Stage preamp technology in one convenient and surprisingly affordable package. *More details early Q2 2013, product available late Q2 2013.*

DC power filter: The new Constellation Audio DC power filter can be added between the power supply and main chassis of any Constellation Audio components. It provides both high-frequency and low-frequency power filtration above and beyond what is provided in the stock power supply, resulting in lower noise and improved dynamics. *Available Q2 2013 for Performance Series, Q3 2013 for Reference Series.*

AC power filter: Constellation Audio's "dream team" of engineers felt the AC power filters currently on the market fell short of the standards set by the unsurpassed power supply quality of the company's audio components. Thus, they decided to create an AC power supply built specifically to enhance the performance of Constellation Audio products. The new filter provides true power factor correction, so that the current and voltage of the incoming AC power are kept perfectly in phase. Any Constellation Audio product can reach an even higher level of performance by using this new power filter. *Available Q3 2013.*

REFERENCE SERIES

Altair II line stage: Altair has already been recognized by many critics as the world's most musically and technically perfect preamp, so most of the changes for the Altair II version are related to the user interface. Advanced functions on the original Altair were controlled by the Pyxis RF touchscreen remote. For Altair II, these functions have been relocated to a touchscreen mounted directly on the front panel, and a more traditional infrared remote replaces Pyxis. The new touchscreen has a more distinct, easy-to-read black-on-white display rather than the previous dark gray/light gray display, and font sizes have been increased for easier reading. These changes not only make Altair II more user-friendly, they also allow Constellation Audio to enter more international markets because the concern for RF certification is eliminated.

Altair II also benefits from an upgraded power supply, with more extensive and rigorous voltage regulation and filtering than those used in the original Altair. It can also be used with the new Constellation Audio DC Power Filter to further enhance performance. *Available now.*

Hercules II monoblock power amplifier: Hercules, praised as one of the finest amplifiers ever created, will soon be available in a traditional horizontal format. Hercules II will be much easier to use in a standard equipment rack than the original tower-style Hercules was. The new chassis even gave Constellation Audio's engineers room to make some sonic improvements, including larger power supply capacitors for better performance into low-impedance speakers, and even better bass than the original Hercules delivered. It also benefits from a new sequential power-up system that helps prevent AC circuit breakers from tripping due to high current inrush when the 1,000-watt monoblock is turned on. *Available Q2 2013.*

Hercules II stereo power amplifier: The new horizontal-format Hercules II chassis made it possible for Constellation Audio's engineers to create a stereo version of the amplifier, which will deliver 500 watts per channel into an 8-ohm load. *Available Q2 2013.*

For more information about Constellation Audio and its products, please visit www.constellationaudio.com.

About Constellation Audio

Constellation Audio was founded in 2008 to create uncompromised audio components for the world's most demanding audiophiles. The company's roster includes numerous seasoned professionals, including some of the world's most famous audio engineers and industrial designers. It offers a complete line of audio electronics available through select dealers worldwide. All of the company's products are manufactured at its factory in Newbury Park, CA.

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