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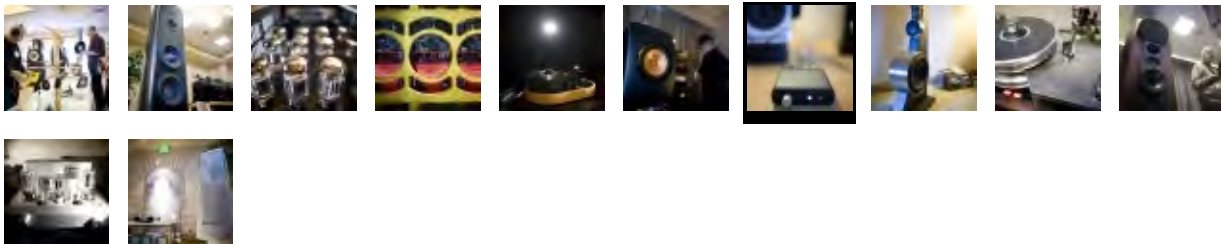


Beautiful, Expensive Stereo Gear That Hits the High End of Hi-Fi

BY MICHAEL CALORE 08.10.12 6:30 AM

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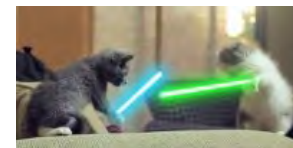
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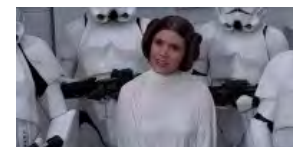
Audioengine D1

We're long-time fans of Audioengine -- [we rated](#) the company's [5+ powered desktop speakers](#) the best in the category last year. Now, the small manufacturer is showing off its combo 24-bit DAC and headphone amp, [the D1](#).

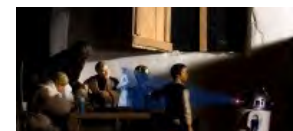
Digital-to-analog converters like this connect to your computer using the USB port or an optical



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connection. They ensure whatever audio is coming out of your computer is represented as accurately as possible when it's sent to your speakers or headphones. As a headphone amp, it added depth and clarity to the Steely Dan and Erykah Badu songs I used to test it. Sweeter than the sound is the price -- only \$170. That's peanuts for a DAC/amp combo of this quality. The compact, attractive design is just gravy.

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All photos: Brian L. Frank/Wired

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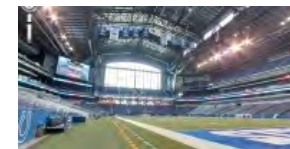


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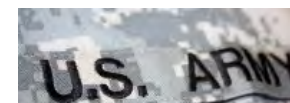
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