



Press Coverage

Contents:

Solo	2
Duetto	8
Amico	14
Musica	17
<i>Tom DeVesto</i>	22



Holiday Gift Guide 2016: 35 Perfect Presents for Music Fans

From a speaker that fits into a stocking to a TV that will blow minds – but not wallets – there’s something for all



35

With a growing number of gadgets, deluxe edition LPs and fancy headphones on the market, it can be hard to nail down a killer gift, so we did the heavy lifting, narrowing it down to the best items you’ll want to for the music fan in your life –or add to a wish list of your own.

...
...



The Modern Radio: Como Audio Solo

Rediscover the joys of radio, but with a twist: The great-sounding Como Audio Solo has built-in WiFi and streams stations from all over the globe. That means reggae from France or pop from Nigeria are just a preset away. \$299; comoaudio.com

REGISTRY BY ROOM

Our favorite picks for your newlywed nest.
BY LAUREN KAY

REGISTRY



LIVING ROOM CRAFT AN INVITING ENTERTAINING SPACE WITH GAMES AND SIPS.

TOP SHELF FROM LEFT Shagreen coasters, \$285 for 4, AERIN.com; Solo speaker, \$349, ComoAudio.com; etched ceramic vase, \$30, Nate Berkus, Target.com; Dance print, from \$23, Paper Dahlia, Minted.com; green malachite frame, \$148, JonathanAdler.com

FROM LEFT Cross-hatch pillow cover, \$30, Williams-Sonoma.com; Highland tumbler, \$40 for 4, Aspen whiskey decanter, \$120 for decanter and 2 tumblers, Nachtmann, RiedelUSA.net; movie buff quiz, \$15, ZGallerie.com; Fire TV stick with Alexa voice remote, \$40, Amazon.com; Monterey frame, from \$59, Framebridge.com; marble tic-tac-toe game, \$35, CrateandBarrel.com; layflat photo album, from \$139, hardcover photo book, from \$69, ArtifactUpprising.com; Endiron marble bookends, \$40 for 2, CB2.com



PROP-STYLING: COURTNEY DE WET FOR BIG LEO PRODUCTIONS



PHOTOGRAPHY



REVIEW

The Perfect Duo

Solo & Ambiente Speakers by Como Audio

BY THOMAS BENDER



Como Audio, from audio veteran Tom DeVesto, is a company with a purpose. With products first brought to market via KickStarter, Como Audio aims to provide state-of-the-art listening solutions, with traditional looks and traditional operation. While Como Audio has a smartphone app for all the functions you'd expect, the true vision behind the

speakers is a freedom from apps, phones, and tablets. The Solo speaker (and its bigger brother Duetto) accommodates a plethora of wired sources and streaming audio at the touch of a button, without ever requiring you to take out your phone.

The Solo is Como's purest distilled vision. This 9-inch

by 5-inch wooden cabinet houses the audio components and all the brains behind the speaker. Available in several different wood finishes, the cabinet for the Solo is nearly a ½ inch thick, and well up to the task of housing the 3" throw, 4-layer voice coil, dome tweeter, and amplifier that power the sound behind the Solo. The style is decidedly retro, and easily incorporates into almost any room. You'll even find a telescoping antennae on the back.

Of course, it's the technology inside the Solo is what makes it truly stand out. Equipped with a 2.8" screen, all the setup and operation can be done from speaker itself (even the WiFi setup). Three dials adorn the bottom portion of the display (volume, menu, and source), with six preset function buttons along the top that have a rubbery finish with clicky feedback.

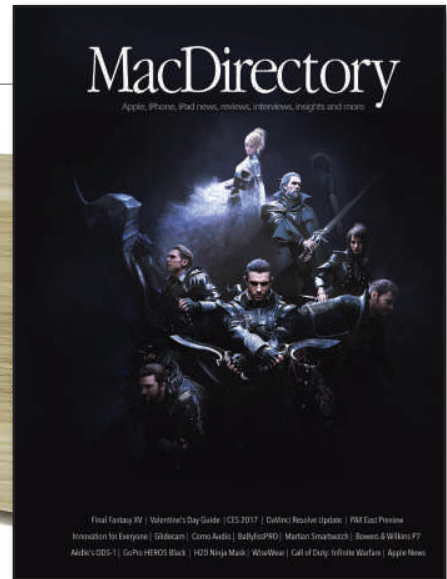
Each of the Solo's six preset buttons can be set to an audio source: an internet

radio station, FM radio station (putting that antenna to use!), a specific audio input, or even a specific function like Spotify Connect or Bluetooth. With the click of a button, you are up-and-running, listening to your favorite music or podcast. The setup for configuring your Solo just the way you like it is all handled on-board—it's like setting a preset option on your car stereo, but with a million more options.

The front user interface handles the day-to-day operation, while the back of the unit is equipped with an array of audio connection options. Setup your Solo any way you'd like with two auxiliary audio inputs, an optical audio input (great for TV connections), a powered USB input, and wireless connectivity via Bluetooth. The USB input is particularly flexible—use it for a flash drive of your favorite tunes or to power your Chomecast/Chrome Audio/Amazon Echo without the need for an additional



68 MacDirectory



outlet connection. These latter options extend the voice controls to the Solo, resulting in a much nicer looking and nicer sounding smart assistant in your living room.

Of course, it's 2017, so Como Audio has also designed an app to assist with the configuration and function of your Solo speaker. About the only thing that requires the app is multi-room setup, which allows you to control multiple Como speakers at once, or sync them all together for a unified sound throughout your house. And if you don't have need for

multi-room setup, but still want portable control, the Solo ships with a remote for controlling most of the basic functions.

It's easy to fall in love with the ease and simplicity of the Solo, so don't be surprised if you find yourself investing in an Ambiente speaker from Como to keep your Solo company. This add-on is a separate speaker that connects to your Solo via a 12-foot cable to create stereo sound production—the Ambiente produces the right channel and the Solo can be fully dedicated to the left channel. It's styling

mirrors that of the Solo (though no control panel is necessary), making for a symmetrical presentation once connected.

Turning the Solo into a stereo experience with the Ambiente makes the pair a great system to support a TV or for use on separate nightstands. Of course, it's also just a great way to experience music the way it was meant to be heard—in stereo. The Ambiente is completely powered by the Solo's amp, so you don't have to worry about positioning it near another outlet, and even if you aren't necessarily looking for a stereo experience, the Ambiente

double's the Solo's output for louder, clearer volumes.

On its own, the Solo is an amazing little full-featured audio speaker, and paired with the Ambiente it is a full room stereo sound solution. It's retro looks and inspiration borrow only the bits of modern technology that it needs, and keeps the listening experience decidedly tactile, something that is easy to lose in today's world of cloud-based, streaming, wireless everything. The Como experience will have you exploring more music, more often and enjoying every bit of it.

For more information, visit:
www.comoaudio.com



MacDirectory 69



Gifts For the Modern Audiophile

We rounded up our favorite picks for the one on your list who's always hip to the newest music, equipped with the highest-quality audio gear, or hunting for an elusive record. From sleek turntables, to fun accessories, to pieces that they'll treasure for years, these design-forward products are sure to rock their world. Photo: Bang & Olufsen



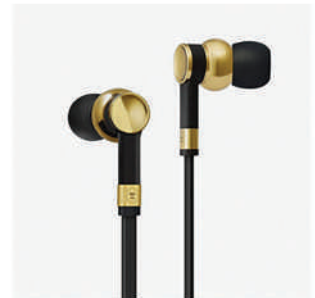
B&O PLAY by Bang & Olufsen Beoplay H8 Wireless On-Ear Headphone
Amazon
~~\$499~~ **SALE \$366.96**



This Is Ground Lupito Craft Edition
THIS IS GROUND
\$29



This Is Ground Cordito Cord & Plug Rollup
THIS IS GROUND
\$55



Master & Dynamic ME05 Earphones
Master & Dynamic
\$199



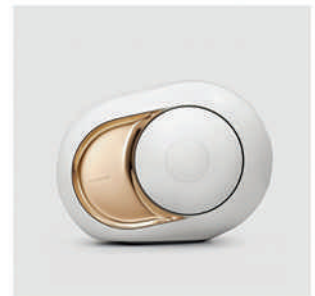
Sonos Play: 1
Huckberry
\$149



Master & Dynamic MH40 Over-Ear Headphones
Master & Dynamic



Como Audio: Solo - Wireless Music System
Amazon



Devialet Gold Phantom Wireless Speaker
Amazon
\$2,990

REVIEWS / HOME

circuit breaker

Como Audio's speaker matches classic looks with modern tech

Bringing the radio into the 21st century

By [Dan Seifert](#) | [@dcseifert](#) | Oct 25, 2016, 2:54pm EDT

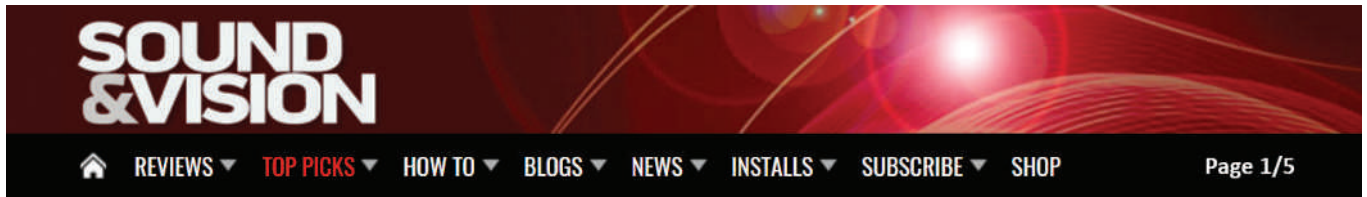


Dan Seifert / The Verge

Wireless speakers are great for a vast number of reasons, but the most obvious one is that they make it super easy to play music or other audio in your home without having to plug into anything. But while most wireless speakers, whether they use Wi-Fi, such as Sonos and Google Cast models, or Bluetooth, aren't as well designed as hi-fi speakers used to be. The modern speaker is meant to blend into the decor of your home, not be a piece of it.

Como Audio is looking to change that with its Solo and Duetto speakers. The Solo and Duetto are fully modern wireless speakers, complete with built-in support for Bluetooth, internet radio, FM radio, and Spotify Connect. But they have the aesthetic of a classic speaker, with wooden cabinets, round grilles, and physical knobs.

That shouldn't come as a surprise given the founder of the company's pedigree. Before he started Como Audio, Tom DeVesto was a founder of Tivoli, which built its name on beautifully designed radios for the home. Como Audio essentially takes the Tivoli model and brings it into the 21st century, blending classic design with modern components.



Don't be fooled by the clock-radio appearance of the Solo or Duetto. Yes, there is a clock with dual alarms and, yes, there is an FM radio—but these extras barely scratch the surface of what these mini marvels can do. You'll be hard-pressed to find a compact music system that's as versatile or sounds as good as the Duetto or Solo from Como Audio.

Never heard of Como Audio? The Boston-based company was launched last summer by Tom DeVesto, who has deep roots in consumer audio as co-founder of Tivoli Audio (2000) and Cambridge SoundWorks (1988), both started with hi-fi pioneer/legend Henry Kloss. (Kloss founded Acoustic Research with Edgar Villchur in 1954 and Advent in 1967.) Before Cambridge SoundWorks, DeVesto held senior positions at Advent and Kloss Video. I've met Tom many times over the years and have always been impressed by his knowledge and dedication to the craft. Como Audio carries on in that tradition.

The first clue that you're about to experience audio goodness is the furniture-grade fit and finish of the Duetto and its Solo sidekick (flawless walnut veneer in the case of my evaluation units). Construction is top-notch, with a cabinet made of half-inch-thick MDF and metal control knobs that inspire confidence.

The Duetto is a classic two-way speaker system with a 0.75-inch soft-dome tweeter and 3-inch woofer on either side, each protected by its own metal grille. The Solo is essentially half a Duetto with one tweeter and one woofer but, functionally, it's nearly identical to its big brother. Want stereo? You can link two Solos and set one for left-channel duty, the other for right.

Little Box, Big Ambitions

In keeping with Como's upscale design theme, the control panel is made of metal and simple in design, with six small preset buttons above the display and three knobs below it: one for Power/Volume, one for scrolling through tracks/stations and menus, and one to select a source. The presets are independent so you can set them up for direct access to favorite Internet radio and FM stations or any source. (I loved being able to switch instantaneously between the BBC, local news radio, and my online music library.) Initial setup for the Duetto or Solo is a snap. Turn on the unit, and a setup wizard guides you through a few basic steps, such as setting date and time (automatically updated over the internet) and connecting to your Wi-Fi network.

“Como Audio's Solo and Duetto look good, sound great, and are loaded with features.”



WIRELESS SPEAKER REVIEWS

Como Audio Solo & Duetto Wireless Music Systems

Bob Ankosko | Dec 23, 2016



PRICE \$299 (Solo), \$399 (Duetto)

AT A GLANCE

Plus

- Versatile
- Solid build quality
- Streaming via Bluetooth and Wi-Fi
- Impressive sound
- Intuitive app plus traditional remote

Minus

- Wish it was battery-powered

THE VERDICT

Como Audio's Solo and Duetto look good, sound great, and are loaded with features.

★★★★★ **TOP PICK**

Duetto

Performance	★★★★☆
Features	★★★★★
Build Quality	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆

★★★★★ **TOP PICK**

Solo

Performance	★★★★☆
Features	★★★★★
Build Quality	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆



Push the Source button, and the fun begins as eight icons populate the display window: Internet Radio (for access to thousands of stations from around the world), Spotify (Premium subscribers only), My Music (for streaming from a DLNA server or PC over your Wi-Fi network), FM Radio, Bluetooth (for direct streaming from Bluetooth devices), Aux 1, Aux 1, and Optical. The hardwire digital inputs, which include a USB port around back, all support hi-res audio up to 192-kHz/24 bit.

You have three control options for the Duetto and Solo: Push buttons and turn knobs on the front panel, use the supplied remote control, or use the Como Control app. In addition to providing an intuitive way to operate an individual system, the app makes it easy to link multiple Duetto and Solos in a Wi-Fi-based multiroom system. You can create groups, or zones, with one system acting as a server for up to four "client" systems. In my case, I linked the Duetto in my office to the Solo, which I had put in a bedroom upstairs. Any source I selected on the Duetto would play in both rooms, and I could control the volume of each system independently or revert to master volume. Or, I could select one or the other from a drop-down menu and switch to a different source.

A Musical Adventure

I began my musical exploration with Internet Radio and quickly got lost perusing dozens of stations-from Afghanistan to Guam, Estonia to Guyana, Montserrat to Vatican ... you get the idea. You can search by Location (organized in 10 regions, including Asia, Central America, Middle East, Oceania), Genre (40 categories from Alternative to World Tropical), Popular Stations (more than 80-from BBC Radio to Polskie Radio Trojka), and New Stations (hundreds!).

When you select a region, you get a list of countries. Pick a country, and stations are organized by genre or you can select All Stations for a complete list. You can also search for local stations, HD Radio stations on the internet, Podcasts, and even create a list of favorites along the way (separate from those six presets). Using the app is the most efficient way to explore all the nooks and crannies-you can do it from the front panel, but it's tedious.

With more than 20,000 stations at my disposal, I was fascinated by the range of programming and spent hours "traveling" thousands of miles. The weirdest station I encountered was Musique Macabre out of Pittsburgh-perfect if you dig "Horror and Halloween music all

the time, all year round." Sound quality was shockingly good whether I was listening to Radio Swiss Pop (worth checking out) or one of the dozens of other stations I dropped in on. Even the traditional music playing on Radio Tshiondo out of Congo (Africa) was clean, clear, and full-bodied.

The breadth and depth of music I heard from around the world was a stark reminder of just how awful terrestrial radio can be-not necessarily in terms of reception but for music (at least in the New York metropolitan area). Still, FM is a welcome addition to the Duetto and Solo, providing an avenue for local news and music (as long as you don't mind tight, repetitive playlists). I was able to pull in most of my go-to stations (yep ... I'm of that generation). If a station is on the fringe, you can extend the telescoping antenna and move it around in hopes of improving reception.

Having a dedicated Spotify mode is a nice touch-but only if you subscribe to Spotify Premium. OK, so I couldn't access my free Spotify account directly through the Duetto or Solo, but I was able to select Bluetooth (on either system) and stream Spotify from my iPad or Samsung Galaxy 5 phone. Between Spotify, Pandora, and Amazon Music, I canvassed a half-dozen music genres and was consistently impressed by the sound quality of both systems. If I felt like sharing a song, I could tap the Group icon in the app to link the systems.

Saving the best for last, I loaded an album's worth of country pop demo recordings onto my PC and selected My Music so I could stream them to the Duetto and Solo. I was very familiar with the songs-which feature my buddy Neil Miranda and Nashville session players-having listened to them on my (old but awesome) Infinity Kappa 8.1 towers. The lead vocals and harmonies sounded rich and full, and the recording's many intricacies were intact, especially the subtle interplay between acoustic, electric, and pedal steel guitars.

As you'd expect, the Duetto was louder and delivered a bigger sound stage with considerably more bass, while the Solo sounded more confined, if not a tad boxy. Sticking with the theme of musicians I know-in this case, Micah Sheveloff -I played a series of pristine studio tracks via USB. I was blown away by how big the little Duetto sounded. The vocals and piano accompaniment were remarkably lifelike against smooth bass lines, punctuated by crisp cymbals and tasteful guitar flourishes. Impressive. Tom DeVesto started Como Audio with the goal of "simplifying and beautifying music streaming." He has succeeded handily on both fronts.

Well done, Tom.



how to spend it



TECHNOLOGY / AUDIO/VISUAL

Como Audio's cool multitasking new music player

The Duetto combines amazing hifi sound and superb Italian-designed cabinetry



Como Audio Duetto, from £449 | Image: Hugh Threlfall

OCTOBER 15 2016 / JONATHAN MARGOLIS



WHERE TO FIND

There are two ways of looking at the Duetto, one of the superb new music players from Como Audio, the Boston company set up by electronics pioneer Tom DeVesto after he sold his radio business [Tivoli Audio](#) last year.

I've been a fan of DeVesto's distinctive brand of retro-styled innovation for years, and Como Audio's USP is that it allows you to access most of the music content available today simply by touching buttons and turning knobs. The [stereo Duetto](#) (and its mono little brother Solo) stream Spotify Connect and internet radio, as well as playing DAB, DAB+ and FM radio, without the need for an external device, app (although there is a very good one available) or remote. You can set the six preset buttons to play, say, BBC Radio 6, a couple of internet stations, Spotify and so on, and click away merrily, switching seamlessly from one to the next. It also has a lovely colour screen to show album art big and bold, along with artist and song information, and it upgrades its software automatically as improvements and access to more streaming services are added. You can also easily rig up multiple Duettos and Solos into a [multiroom](#) system.

But as someone who thinks Spotify is for kids and multiroom for people who only like background music, my take on the simple, smart and intuitive Duetto is different (I actually prefer its more complicated mode, whereby you stream music to it from your computer, phone or tablet via Bluetooth aptX or a wired connection). My admiration is based on its superb-looking, Italian-designed cabinetry in outstanding finishes – walnut, hickory lacquered white and black – and its amazing hifi sound, thanks to 60-watt RMS Class D digital amplifiers, custom Digital Signal Processor and 3in, four-layer voice coil woofers and 0.75in tweeters (a lot of the technology in Como Audio products, I should mention, is British, from London company Frontier Silicon).

Whether you look at it from my perspective (let me play ripped CDs on my Mac and leave Spotify to others) or from Tom DeVesto's (a desire to channel all music through a high-quality, interior-friendly, wooden table-top machine), Como Duetto is for people who love music but hate following the Sonos/Bose mainstream. I like it a lot.



HOME U.S. ▼ NEWS MARKETS INVESTING TECH MAKE IT VIDEO SHOWS MORE

SUBSCRIBE > PRO LIVE TV WATCHLIST

CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY

Como Audio crowdfunds its way to success with new hi-fi speakers



Javier E. David | @TeflonGeek

Published 3:28 PM ET Thu, 21 July 2016 | Updated 12:19 PM ET Sat, 30 July 2016



Source: Como Audio
Como Audio's Solo speaker

The estimated \$10 billion global market for wireless audio devices is as popular as it's ever been - a fact an upstart audio company discovered after it set out to raise \$50,000 for two new products but got more than five times the amount.

Como Audio, the brainchild of the consumer electronics guru behind Tivoli Audio, announced last week it had raised a total of more than \$268,000 through Kickstarter with 973 backers on a campaign that began on June 7. Underscoring the power of crowdfunding and the large demand for high-tech audio devices, Como - which opened its doors in March - originally set out to raise a mere \$50,000.

With the rise of smartphones and digital music players, sales of high-end stereos and the speakers that once powered them have [been on a downward slope](#) with music aficionados. That has led some manufacturers to get with the trend by creating wireless speakers more compatible with digital music.

"When streaming services took over, a lot of people stopped paying attention to sound quality. You listened to music through your earbuds, your laptop or your smartphone. Or you connected to a music player through Bluetooth and everything sounded a little better - as long as you stayed within 30 feet," said Tom DeVesto, Como Audio's founder, in a statement.

Because of the unexpected cash infusion, DeVesto told CNBC that the company wasn't seeking other investors, at least for the moment. "Our main consideration with Kickstarter was to qualify for Amazon Prime. Which happily we have," he said.



Source: Como Audio
Como Audio's speaker Duetto

DeVesto added that the company was "grateful for the money we raised and the 1000 backers that we now have a relationship with."

Como Audio joins a crowded market that includes the likes of [Bose](#), Sonos and Beats by Dre. The wireless audio market is considered a rapidly expanding sector that BIS Research projects will top \$33 billion by 2022, the firm said in a March report.

Como's two devices, the Solo and the Duetto, have a decidedly retro look of a compact AM/FM radio but boast a high-fidelity sound that can channel streaming radio and is Bluetooth/wireless compatible. The Solo and Duetto can play podcasts, streams from a computer or smartphone and can have stations preprogrammed to use Spotify, Pandora or any other streaming platform.

The founder has invested more than \$1 million in product development, and the Kickstarter windfall will be applied to other startup expenses, he added. Because of the added money, Como Audio has added two new color combinations to the Solo and Duetto-expanding the product offerings to 4, DeVesto told CNBC.

Solo's retail cost is \$299, while the Duetto goes for \$399.



INTERIORATOR

You are here: Home / Tech and Trends / Como Audio- Tried, tested and found true

Como Audio - Tried, Tested And Found True

on 17 februari 2018 in Tech and Trends

When it comes to audio, you can definitely say I've been upping my game lately. Late last year, I bought a high-end Bluetooth headset. It's not just great for the road, but it also comes in quite useful whenever I want to listen to my music at home – which I do all the time. And I mean that literally. Unfortunately, walking around the house with a Bluetooth headset is not all it's cracked up to be (even if it's in a bathrobe and playing Wow by Beck on full blast. It's a lot less comfortable than you'd think and after a long day working, discomfort is not what I aim for. And since the only speakers I currently own are the ones in my iMac, I thought I'd try out something new to satisfy my new-found need for high-end audio. Enter the [Como Audio Duetto](#)!



The Como Audio Duetto looked right at home on my credenza. Art by Woody van Amen via Kunstuitleen Rotterdam, vase by Maarten Vrolijk for Rosenthal (and yes, I was busy choosing colors from the Little Greene paint color chart for a new project I'm doing).

So, here are the three things that I want from an audio system. First and foremost, it has to look good. And yes, I know what you're thinking right now – and I hear you loud and clear. But for an interior-design aficionado like myself, looks always come first. I can spend months finding just the right lamp, so why shouldn't an audio system meet the same high standards? Needless to say, it needs great sound. Not necessarily party hardy volume 10 loudness (what would the neighbors think?), but it would be nice to make out all the details in a song when I'm working or relaxing. And then finally, I want to listen to my favorite music on Spotify and the only internet radio station I listen to, KCRW Eclectic 24 – and I want the experience to be one hundred per cent hassle-free.

Now, when I unboxed my Como Audio Duetto, I have to say I was pretty impressed by its sleek looks. The Duetto looks simple yet luxurious and its glossy piano black finish definitely gave it a high-end feel. Sweet! Setting up the Duetto couldn't have been easier – I didn't even need the manual. All I had to do was connect it to my Wi-Fi, wait for the obligatory software update to download and bang, boom, I was all set. It was a surprisingly smooth experience, especially after my epic struggle with the Sonos system I have in my bedroom. What a nightmare that was – and don't even get me started on their frustratingly clumsy interface. But I digress.

I've meticulously compiled playlists in just about every genre you can think of and I cannot imagine living life without them. In fact, I'm such a big Spotify fan, that I asked everyone I interviewed for my upcoming book to create their own playlist so that readers can follow it by scanning a Spotify code. All I had to do to listen to Spotify on my Duetto, was to select it in the bottom-right corner. Easy peasy!

Using the Como Audio remote, I then looked up my go-to internet radio station, [KCRW Eclectic 24](#). It's always a surprise what song they play next – and that is just the way I want it. What point is there in only playing songs you know when there is so much great music from all over the world simply begging to be discovered on [KCRW's Rhythm Planet](#)? And why stick to dance songs you've heard a thousand times over when you can also tune in to [Mario Cotto's kaleidoscopic Dada Dance Party](#)? I rest my case.

"There is one thing I would change about the Como Audio Duetto. You see, if you want to stream sound straight from your browser – like from YouTube or KCRW's on demand radio shows – you need to hook up a Chromecast Audio." That's what I wrote down originally.. BUT...right before I published this blogpost, I found out that the Como Audio Duetto has a Bluetooth mode that allows me to stream all my audio from my iMac (or any other device). And the fact that I can do so, is a YUGE improvement on the frustratingly walled garden that is my Sonos system. No wonder I moved it out of my living room a long time ago!

Long story short: After two weeks with the Como Audio Duetto, I didn't really want to send it back. It looked wonderful, featured excellent sound quality that was more than enough for my living room and it played almost everything I wanted to. Yup, I'm definitely buying one and I might even go for the [Ambiente bundle](#) – fancy that!

Interiorator x Como Audio - The Spotify playlist

I thought it would be cool to share with you a special Interiorator x Como Audio playlist. It's a small selection of all the music I've discovered lately on Spotify and KCRW.com. All you have to do is open [this link](#) or click on the magnifying glass in the Spotify app and scan the code below. Enjoy!

DEPARTURES

— Technology & Gadgets —

High-Tech Kitchen Gadgets

By Frank Vizard on November 02, 2016

Sophisticated new kitchen tools make time in the kitchen well spent, helping home cooks to tailor food prep, and cleanup, to individual tastes—just the way we like it.



Courtesy Como Duetto

6 OF 9

Como Duetto Radio

If music is an essential ingredient for cooking, the new Duetto radio from Como Audio is like a *mise en place* for tunes. Compact in size (it's only 5 by 9.5 by 4.7 inches), the Duetto nonetheless sports a 60-watt amplifier that will fill a room with sound. A wireless Bluetooth connection makes streaming music from a phone or computer easy. Duetto includes Spotify, an FM radio, and can tune into 20,000 internet radio stations. Duetto is available in a kitchen-friendly high-gloss lacquer white finish as well as black and furniture-grade wood finishes. comoaudio.com



19.4.18

di Luca Pierattini

Home > Gadget > Hi Tech

Design, 7 speaker bluetooth e wifi d'autore

Belli, potenti e con uno stile inconfondibile in casa o da portare sempre con te: sette modelli da comprare subito

Il **design** è diventato una caratteristica fondamentale per un **gadget dedicato alla casa**. Che sia un **elettrodomestico**, un **televisore** o un accessorio d'arredamento, ogni piccolo dettaglio che ospitiamo nella nostra abitazione deve essere bello oltre che funzionale. Se prima la tendenza era quella di nascondere gli oggetti nello sgabuzzino (come per **lavatrici** e aspirapolvere), adesso **possiamo esporre tutto nei nostri salotti** e nelle nostre camere da letto, grazie a linee minimal e ad uno **stile raffinato** che ha contagiato un po' tutta la casa nel suo complesso, spazzando via gli ingombri e le linee pompose di un tempo. Anche quando si tratta di scegliere uno speaker, la qualità d'ascolto va di pari **passo al suo design** e, bisogna dire, le aziende produttrici di altoparlanti per la casa sono state tra le prime a fare passi da gigante in questo senso. Dopo aver raccontato l'origine del **Beoplay P6**, abbiamo deciso di raccogliere altri 7 speaker di design da avere in salotto.

...

Como Audio Amico. Il nuovo brand fondato da Tom DeVesto è appena sbarcato in Italia grazie a un accordo siglato con Audiogamma, società leader nella distribuzione di brand di prestigio nel settore dell'hi-fi. Un approdo naturale quello di Como Audio nel nostro paese, visto che per sottolineare lo stretto legame di DeVesto con le sue origini ha scelto nomi ruti "made in Italy". Amico è la versione portatile della gamma di altoparlanti, a sviluppo verticale (13x24x13cm) impermeabile e con una batteria ricaricabile. Il cabinet è in multistrato marino da 12mm con finitura teak impregnato, in modo da resistere senza problemi agli agenti atmosferici. L'autonomia è di 8 ore grazie alla batteria Lilon da 2200 mAh, e la potenza è di 30'vV per canale con gli stessi altoparlanti adottati negli altri modelli.

Prezzo: 499 euro.



TWICE

PRODUCTS INDUSTRY RESEARCH RETAIL RESOURCES CAREERS SUBSCRIBE

HOME > INDUSTRY > CES

CES 2018: For Music On The Go, Como Offers Amico

Wi-Fi music system boasts eight hours of playback

TWICE STAFF · DEC 1.2017



Como Audio will have its Amico portable battery-powered audio solution on display at CES 2018 in January.

Featuring eight hours of playback, the Amico weighs only 3.6 pounds including battery pack and measures 9.4 inches by 5 inches by 4.9 inches.

It's designed to play Internet radio, Spotify Connect, FM RDS, Bluetooth with AptX, and features AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) for better sound quality and NFC for pairing devices.

Design details include Teak wood veneer with nearly half-inch-thick marine-grade plywood substrate and anodized metal knobs for added weather resistance. The front panel features a 2.8-inch color TFT display and six independent presets. The adjustable EQ allows for bass, treble, balance and loudness control and there is a telescoping external antenna for FM radio.

The Amico is a Wi-Fi music system with an analog or digital clock display and time and date that updates automatically. The dual independent alarms feature scheduling options plus snooze and sleep timer. A backlight adjustment allows for uninterrupted sleep. It comes with a 1x3-inch custom four-layer voice coil woofer and 1x3/4-inch dome tweeter. The tuned rear bass port provides for efficient bass response and extended range, and also doubles as a carry handle.

Available now, Amico is priced at \$399 and comes with a two-year warranty.

The company can be found at suite 29-112 in the Venetian during CES.

TAGS · CES 2018 · COMO AUDIO



- BOATS ▾
- DESTINATIONS ▾
- ENGINE & UPKEEP ▾
- ELECTRONICS & GEAR ▾
- FOOD ▾
- LIFE ▾
- SHOPPING ▾

Home > Electronics & Gear > Gadgets > Como Audio's Amico Portable Music System

ELECTRONICS & GEAR GADGETS

Como Audio's Amico Portable Music System



Como Audio's Amico Portable Music System is perfect for your boat.

Here's an innovative idea for a music system: Spotify

Como Audio's Amico Portable Music System features music from Spotify Connect.

If Wi-Fi isn't available, play your own tunes via Bluetooth wireless technology, a USB port, auxiliary inputs, or the FM tuner. A 3/4-inch dome tweeter and four-layer voice coil woofer create high fidelity sound, and the teak veneer and 1/2-inch marine-grade housing make it water resistant for use on the boat, on the beach and at home.

MSRP \$399

HOME / MERCHANDISE / ELECTRONICS & CAMERAS

CAMERAS AND ELECTRONICS

A Pair of Fine and Friendly Music Systems

Como Audio's new Amico and Musica offer high fidelity sound in an elegant package

by Leo Jakobson | December 05, 2017



Como Audio, the latest company by pioneering audio designer Tom DeVesto, the creator of both Cambridge SoundWorks and Tivoli Audio, has a new line of portable and compact yet powerful high-fidelity music system next month.

The two new systems are the Amico, a portable mono model, and the Musica, a stereo system that adds a CD player and some other upgrades to the company's original Duetto system. Both pair amazing sound quality with Internet radio and streaming music, elegant design, and ease of use. And both the Amico and Musica can be linked to each other or in combination with the earlier Solo and Duetto music systems via Como's Whole House Control. This allows the user to sync several units together so they can be controlled by the Como smartphone app to either play the same music or tunes from separate sources at the same time.

Both can stream your music collection from a smartphone, tablet, or computer via high-quality Bluetooth with aptX, as well as Internet radio, Spotify Connect,

and FM radio with RDS information which can provide song, artist, and radio station information. All Como music systems pair with mobile devices using NFC, which is easier than Bluetooth pairing.

The core of the Amico and Musica systems are either one or two sets of custom 4-layer voice coil woofers, and three-quarter-inch soft dome tweeters. They have Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) for improved sound quality. Amico's rear-facing bass port was designed to double as a hidden handle.

First and foremost, the Amico is a high-fidelity sound system, De Vesto says. After that, it is a portable system with teak veneer over one-half-inch thick marine grade plywood for sturdiness and especially sound quality.

Weighing 3.6 pound in a package 9.4 inches high, five inches deep and 4.9 inches wide, the Amico's Li-Ion rechargeable battery is good for eight hours of music at a loud volume, says DeVesto.

"Amico is small on size and big on advanced technology," DeVesto adds. "It was designed to not only make it easy to access all of your music content with the press of a button, but to listen to great sounding music wherever you go."

Other features include a 2.8-inch color screen, six preset channel buttons, and adjustable EQ. It is compatible with the firm's matching Ambiente speaker, which brings stereo sound to the Amico.

The wired Musica is a stereo system with audio guts that largely match the Amico, but doubled. And, it adds a CD player for audiophiles that want that sound quality. It's LCD screen is larger at 3.2 inches, has eight programmable preset buttons, and it has an alarm clock feature. It is nearly 16 inches wide, 6.5 inches deep and 5.6 inches high. Musica comes with either walnut or hickory veneer, or a black or white piano-grade lacquer.

The company can customize both models in a variety of ways for corporate customers.



REVIEW

Retro & Smart Home Speakers Como Audio: Amico and Musica

BY THOMAS BENDER

If you saw our feature in February, you'll know we were fans of Como Audio's unapologetic retro styling and their laser focus on making your favorite digital music easily accessible. This year Como Audio has continued to expand their product line with the addition of the Amico and Musica. Taking inspiration from the Solo and Duetto, these two new speakers each have a stand out feature to entrench them in the Como pantheon; the Amico is Como Audio's first portable speaker and the Musica is the first speaker with a built-in CD player. Retro, indeed!

All of Como's speakers support Bluetooth

connections, but until the Amico, they all required a plugged in power source. The Amico packs a 2,200 mA lithium ion battery good for 8 hours of playback anywhere you want to take it. However, the Amico is far from your standard Bluetooth speaker that you might pull off the shelf at your favorite big box store. It's design, materials, and Como features make this a premium carry more fit for any room of the house, out on a porch, in the garage, or at the bar.

The Amico stands upright, making it a small tower of a wooden speaker. The fact that the Amico is portable doesn't mean that it is any

less sturdy than Como's other speakers. The cabinet is more than a half inch of marine-grade plywood substrate covered with a real teak wood veneer for added looks and protection, and the bass port in the pack doubles as a handle, making the Amico easy to cart around when needed.

Inside the cabinet is a Class D 30-watt amplifier to power the 4-layer voice coil and dome tweeter. All sorts of audio connections are packed into the speaker, including FM radio, internet radio, Bluetooth 4.1 with AptX, Spotify Connect, DLNA support, USB connection (which can also be

used to power your favorite WiFi device like Chromecast of Amazon Dot), and the requisite stereo input.

The Como interface makes a fine transition to the portable speaker. A smaller TFT display graces the signature recessed control panel, with the Como preset buttons and radial knobs that you'd expect. Como responded to one of the few criticisms of their first line of speakers by extending the knobs an additional 4mm in length, making them easier to pinch and maneuver.

As for the Musica, it is really Como Audio's greatest expression of their mission to bring new musical



68 MacDirectory



experiences to the consumer market. The Musica has everything you'd need in a speaker, including a CD player. And while it may seem silly to talk about compact discs in 2017, it's still one of the easiest ways to experience high fidelity music, which appears to be making a roaring comeback as digital music matures.

Unlike the Amico, the Musica is definitely a stationary smart music system. It includes every connection you can think of. In addition to the wireless services available in all Como speakers, the Musica has an included Ethernet jack for wired networking (in addition to its WiFi connection capabilities), optical audio input for use with TVs and other devices, and two auxiliary inputs. Unlike the Amico, it also includes stereo headphone and line output, as well.

With the additional connectivity options, you're going to want more presets, and the Musica is large enough to support eight preset buttons that can be programmed to anything from wireless streaming services (including Spotify, Tidal, Deezer, Napster, and Amazon) to FM radio stations to internet radio and everything in between. These presets can also be easily accessed from the Musica's remote or custom Android/iOS app, which duplicates a lot of the front panel functions and lets you fully control your Como from anywhere in the room.

It's slightly refreshing to see a CD player on a speaker in 2017. I had to dig up some old CDs to test out the Musica, but it was both nostalgia, high fidelity, and an exercise in listening. In the day and age of playlists, mixtapes, always-updated,

always-streaming musical curation, there is something to be said for putting in an album and enjoying it from the beginning.

Of course, all of the listening options in the world would be for naught if the Musica didn't have the power to faithfully reproduce your music collection. Luckily, each side of the Musica carries a 19mm soft dome tweeter and a custom 3" long-throw 4-layer voice coil woofers for the mid and low range. I found that the Musica belies its size, and is able to output plenty of sound for any room, retaining its audio profile through almost its entire volume range. Tom DeVesto's audio chops continue to be a signature of all Como products, and it's given an even better opportunity to shine with the inclusion of the CD player.

The Musica is available in Walnut and Hickory real



Deddy 2 | Letting the Light Shine: BlackMagic Design
Hercules & Love Affair: Andy Butler | Damon Dash
KEY 1550 Wireless | Como Audio: Amico & Musica
Logitech: MX Sound | AudioGeme HD3 Wireless
Eye by Elgato | ScreenFlow 7 | Phlaton: BT 460
Propellerhead: Reason 9.5 Suite | CaseWare | Silk
Plus: Apple News | Apple Analysis | iHealth

wood veneers which ooze the Como Audio retro aesthetic. However, the Musica also comes in Piano White and Piano Black finishes for an added layer of class. The 3.2" TFT color display is sized for the larger speaker, and is great for album art, radio information, and general setup and navigation that can sometimes be a guessing game on other smart speakers.

There's nothing else I could ask for to be included in a speaker, and regardless of your listening needs, the Musica should be able to handle them and then some. For a truly versatile, stand-alone smart music system, the Musica is an incredible piece of technology.

For more information, visit:
www.comoaudio.com



TESTS NYHEDER FILM & TV



Test af: Como Audio Musica Kompetent kompaktanlæg



Af Lasse Svendsen | 21. februar 2018

Specielt
anbefalet

Februar 2018

LYD & BILLEDE

★★★★★

Como Audio Musica

Det kompakte Como-anlæg er et fuldgyldigt trådløst stereoanlæg med multirumsunderstøttelse.

Lyd & Billede mener

- +** Vellydende stereoanlæg med elegant multirumsløsning og understøttelse af flere streaming-tjenester. God brugervenlighed.
- Dybbas mangler. Ellers ikke meget at sætte en finger på.

Como Audio Musica kombinerer cd-afspiller, radio og netværkstilslutning med stereohøjtalere og muligheden for multirumslyd. Med Bluetooth kan anlægget fungere som streaming-højtaler for mobilen, men det har også streaming-tjenester som Spotify, Tidal, Napster og Oeazer integreret.

Alt kan tilgås fra fjernbetjeningen eller Como Control-app'en til iOS og Android,

Anlægget er blandt de letteste at sætte op og bruge, og det tager ikke lang tid at koble til Wi-Fi-netværket. Så får man ikke alene adgang til mere end 30.000 radiostationer på nettet, men også mulighed for at koble flere enheder sammen.

Så kan man have Musica stående i stuen, den mindre Como Audio Ouetto i køkkenet og den bærbare Amico på terrassen. Alle tilkobles Wi-Fi derhjemme og fungerer både individuelt og sammenkoblet. Hvis man vil lyne til en cd i stuen, høre radio i køkkenet og streame fra mobilen på terrassen, er det muligt. Eller man kan spille en cd i Musica og streame lyden til de andre Como-produkter, man har.

Hvis man placerer Musica i stuen, kan det være praktisk at slutte tv'et til den optiske indgang på bagsiden for at få bedre tv-lyd.



Como Musica støtter multirum, og findes i andre farver.

Lydkvalitet

Musica leverer et fantastisk åben lyd billede sammenlignet med Pures anlæg. Bassen er veldefineret og går relativt dybt, og der er bedre fokus i mellemtonen. Glædeligt nok er diskanten også godt defineret og langt mere med i lydbilledet end på de billigere anlæg.

Strygerklangen på Trondheimsolisternes fremføring af Benjamin Britten er varmere og har god klangerfarver. Man kan tydeligt høre anslagene på strengene, og paukerne overskygger ikke strygerne, som de gør på de mindre anlæg i testen. Bassen på David Bowies 'Lazarus' lyder mægtigt med stor vægt bag anslagene. Godt gået af et anlæg, der ikke har indbygget subwoofer.

Konklusion

Det veludstyrede Como-anlæg dækker manges behov for et kompakt anlæg. Det understøtter de mest almindelige streaming-tjenester, kombinerer natradio med FM og DAB+, og har cd-afspiller.

Med understøttelse af multirum oveni har man lyd i hele huset, og med den mægtige lyd og den nemme betjening er Como Audio Musica et rigtig godt køb.

Fakta & Rating: ★★★★★

Radio: FMIOABIOAB+, internetradio
 Trådløst + netværk: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth m. aptX, Ethernet, multirum
 Musik-tjenester: Spotify Connect, Tidal, Napster, Deezer
 Cd-afspiller: Ja
 Tilslutninger: USB, 2 x analog lyd ind, optisk lyd ind
 Hovedtelefonudgang: Ja
 Forhåndsindstillinger (radio): Ja
 Farveskærm: Ja
 App-styring: Como Control
 Fjernbetjening: Ja
 Mål: 14,3 X 40 X 16,5 cm
 Finish: Valnød, hickory, sort eller hvid
 Web: comoaudio.eu

APR 6, 2018

GELUIDSDOOS

HI-TECH



We hebben eindelijk de ideale tafelradio ontdekt. En dit is 'm...

Tom DeVesto, de man die ooit het bekende audiomerk Tivoli op de wereld zette, is inmiddels dik 70 jaar oud. Maar in plaats van achter de geranium te gaan zitten, begint hij aan een nieuw project: Como Audio. [en soort tafelradio's 2.0. Weer in karakteristieke massief houten doosvorm, en binnenin louter intelligentie en kwaliteit. Over 2 x 30 Watt topspeakers speelt hij alles wat je kunt bedenken: cd's, FM-radio en DAB+; via Bluetooth en NFC kan hij draadloos worden aangesloten op het thuisnetwerk om gebruik te maken van streaming diensten als Spotify Connect, TIDAL, Deezer, Napster en Amazon Music. En de bediening kan via het display, maar ook een afstandsbediening, smartphone of tablet. Zelfs multiroom koppeling met extra luidsprekers is mogelijk.

De Como Audio Musica kost vanaf 699,- www.comoaudio.eu



Tom DeVesto Continues To Ride The Sound Waves To Success With ComoAudio

BY KELLIE SPEED | BOSTON, NEWS | JANUARY 10, 2018

When it comes to creating crystal clear audio, Tom DeVesto knows how to do it better than anyone. After all, he has plenty of experience (more than 40 years to be exact) as the co-founder of Cambridge SoundWorks and founder of Tivoli Audio and now his most recent venture - **Como Audio**.



Como Audio was founded two years ago in Boston and has quickly become a top manufacturer and designer of high-fidelity, wi-fi, multi-room audio systems. DeVesto's goal was to create a high quality product that supports the latest technology, looks sleek and is easy to use. The Hall of Fame audio designer wanted to offer audio enthusiasts a distinct way to enjoy listening to music from the convenience of an iPhone, Spotify, Bluetooth, the Internet or FM Radio simpler. The result? Multi-room Como Audio Solo, Duetto, Amico, and Musica hi-fi audio systems.

We recently caught up with DeVesto to learn more about the brand and what his thoughts are on the future of audio.

When did you first become passionate about music and what made you decide to make a career out of it?

I'm a baby boomer, so music was a big part of everything we did 40 to 50 years ago. At the time, I was anti-Vietnam War and every time we did an event, there was music. If you were from that generation, music was an integral part of your life. If a new album came out for Fleetwood Mac, it was a big event.

I was an English major with a political science minor and ended up making a commercial version of PA systems. I traveled the world doing events. Music has always been a part of my life. I went to school in the middle of the Smoky

Mountains and opened up a store that sold tapes. It grew to a few stores. At the time, Henry Kloss developed the world's first acoustic loud speaker. We were a dealer of those products. I sold those three stores and moved to Boston to work for Advent in Cambridge where Kloss and I made the world's first big screen TV. Kloss Video was brought public and then we started Cambridge SoundWorks. We had about 60 stores, 30 in New England and 30 in San Francisco. The idea was to create a national chain with the company. It was brought public and we sold it to Creative Technologies out of Singapore.

Tell us a little about Como Audio and what makes the brand so unique.

Como Audio lets you access all of your music from one device with the press of a button. It was named after a town in Italy where I have a home and design group. We developed it with the idea in mind that not only should the device sound good but should be something that looks nice and is able to stand the test of time. Our Boston office is in the Innovation and Design Building. We have a dedicated team working here. Most people have worked with me for several years.

Any predictions on the future of audio?

Neil Young, who I worked with a lot in the past, just released Neil Young Archives and right now it's free. He has put all the work he has ever done in

one place, so you can search by song, timeline or whatever. I think you will be seeing more of that as we go on. Resolution is agnostic to whatever you have. I think you will be seeing new ways to look at the delivery system. That's what I think will be the future of audio.

What type of music do you prefer to listen to in your spare time?

I listen to music all the time. I am a huge blues fan and also love jazz and rock and roll. I am on the Board of Overseers at WGBH and WMVY, a radio station on Martha's Vineyard.

Since you're a Bostonian, can you share a few places you like to go in town, i.e. restaurants, locations, etc.?

We have a place on Washington Street in the South End, a home in Cotuit, another in Florida and one in Italy. When we are in Boston, Coppa in the South End is one of my favorite restaurants along with Santarpio's Pizza in East Boston. The Cantab Lounge in Cambridge has live music every night and bluegrass on Tuesdays. My wife is a bluegrass mandolin player. We are lucky to have so many great restaurants to choose from in Boston. Gaslight is another great one and we live right across the street. Mela in the South End is always good. Abe & Louie's was another favorite for years. For music venues, Harvard's Sanders Theater is great for acoustic performances.



DeVesto's latest ideal for streaming

Duetto a sound decision

Paul Restuccia Friday, November 25, 2016



Credit: Faith Ninivaggi

Tom DeVesto creator of Como Audio Solo and Duet HI-FI Systems talks about his latest invention that will allow users to access the internet without using their phones to listen to music. June 10, 2016. Staff photo by Faith Ninivaggi

The latest product by local audio legend Tom DeVesto - founder of Cambridge SoundWorks and Tivoli Audio - has hit the market after the well-known speaker builder raised funds for the project through a Kickstarter campaign.

His new Seaport District company, Como Audio, has now released the Solo and the Duetto, streaming internet music systems with high-fidelity sound, and a classic look with a wood box, speaker circles and an LCD screen.

They look like a cross between an old-time tabletop radio and a bookshelf speaker.

IL GIORNO

L'impresa: dare forma al suono

Musica e design. La rivoluzione di Como Audio, ispirata dal lago



L'azienda

Como Audio nasce nel 2016
Sede a Boston, scommette
sulla creatività italiana

Luca Balzarotti
MILANO

«I'M ITALIAN... Sono italiano». Risposta che sorprende, se la domanda è «Why?». Perché? Perché «Como Audio»? E perché chi ha già rivoluzionato vent'anni fa l'ascolto della musica con il design e gli altoparlanti di «Tivoli Audio», a 70 anni «suonati» vuole riprovarci con un'altra impresa? «Como Audio» è la nuova «company» - per dirla con le parole del fondatore Tom DeVesto - 100% americana: sede a Boston, ma team di designer a Como. «I'm Italian... Sono italiano», ripete come un ritornello l'italo-americano. Sarà l'unica frase che sentirà il bisogno di tradurre nell'ora trascorsa a raccontare in inglese - a suo modo - filosofia e obiettivi di «Como Audio», seduto a un tavolo di Chicchi Ginepri. Qui, nella bottega di abbigliamento, DeVesto ha scelto di esporre nella Settimana del Mobile «Solo», «Duetto», «Musica». Nomi italiani, così come gli altri tre «device»: «Ambiente», «Amico», «Amica».

TIVOLI è il passato che non rinnega. «Bello» ma passato. «Tivoli ha esaltato la radio, le frequenze Fm. Vent'anni dopo ci sono la radio e la digital radio. Ci sono mp3, Spotify, il Bluetooth. Ci sono sorgenti infinite per la musica, ci sono altoparlanti potenti: siamo passati dai 6 watt ai 30. Dentro di me, sentivo come se la gente si aspettasse qualcosa che potesse unire tutto questo in un prodotto di qualità e di design». La pausa, come nella musica, non arriva a caso. DeVesto si alza e si avvicina a «Solo» e a «Duetto». I dispositivi sono i primi nati di «Como Audio», azienda avviata con un investimento di 4 milioni di dollari. Una storia iniziata il 1 febbraio 2016 come se fosse non DeVesto, ma uno tra i tanti startupper. Una campagna su Kickstarter, piattaforma on line di crowdfunding dove

la creatività va a caccia di finanziatori. Misurarsi. Dettaglio utile per capire la filosofia di questo designer, amante della musica e delle sfide imprenditoriali: «Kickstarter mi piace perché puoi presentare il prodotto e capisci subito se il pubblico gradisce», rivela anticipando l'avvio di una nuova campagna il primo maggio. «Il settimana «device» di Como Audio sarà rivoluzionario. In cosa? Ah... Non posso, non posso». Pausa. Poi la tentazione vince. «Si potrà comandare la radio con la voce». Come Siri con l'iPhone? «Siri? No, non posso, non posso».

LO STOP diventa il la per continuare. «I device di «Como Audio» si possono gestire con lo smartphone, con un'app. Ma anche con un telecomando e con un pulsante sul dispositivo. Perché magari, qualcuno, lo smartphone lo vuole usare ancora per telefonare...». Ecco il design secondo DeVesto, dove il bello deve andare d'accordo con il facile e l'utile: ascoltare musica bene e ovunque nella casa. La dimostrazione è «live»: «Con un pulsante si può passare da un livello all'altro, da una radio a Spotify in base alle preferenze impostate». Li presenta brevemente questi «pezzi» appena arrivati nei negozi italiani (25, ma presto diventeranno 100) tramite lo storico distributore Audiogamma di Milano. «Solo» ha radio, radio on line, connessione a Spotify, connessioni Bluetooth e wireless. E un altoparlante. «Duetto» è la versione ste-

reo. Poi c'è «Musica» con il lettore cd. Mentre «Amico» è il portatile per eccellenza, per sentire la musica anche sul terrazzo e in spiaggia, rivestito di un legno che non soffre l'umidità. Lo prende, lo accompagna fino al tavolo. Poi ne sottolinea il design, studiato in prima persona, in collaborazione con Ilaria Marelli e un team che ha sede a Como. «Ottima sinergia con Ilaria, ed è strano perché di solito due designer non vanno d'accordo. La conoscevo dai tempi di Tivoli ed è stato positivo per me poterla riportare «in Como». L'accento è tutto sulla città dove «ho vissuto per qualche anno e ora la vivo per otto o nove settimane perché a Boston studiano i miei figli».

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA



Ci sono sorgenti infinite di musica e altoparlanti potenti: dentro di me sentivo l'aspettativa di un prodotto raffinato che integrasse tutto

MONO
«Solo»
primo nato
di Como Audio
con radio
Spotify
Bluetooth
e wireless



STEREO
«Duetto»
il fratello
maggiore
di «Solo»
si presenta
con il secondo
altoparlante

LA SFIDA
Tom DeVesto, 70 anni
Il fondatore
di Tivoli Audio
è tornato
con Como Audio



Hifi Video Test
hvt



venster op beeld en geluid

INTERVIEW TOM DEVESTO - COMO AUDIO

It's all about the music

Door Ernst Neve, HVT 3, maart 2018

Als je je een beetje verdiept in de man Tom DeVesto kom je er al snel achter dat je met een icoon uit de audiowereld te maken hebt. Het is niet voor niets dat hij in de CE Hall of Fame van de Consumer Electronics Association is opgenomen en zijn naam prijkt naast grootheden als Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Heinrich Hertz, Ray Dolby, Sidney Harman, Saul Marantz, Paul Klipsch en Henry Kloss, om er maar een paar te noemen. Toch is het de laatste naam die lijkt wel altijd op zijn pad heeft gezeten en met wie hij zijn grootste successen geboekt heeft. Tot nu toe dan. Want het is tijd voor het volgende grote succes van een hifi-apparaat dat Tom inmiddels beter kent dan zijn achterzak. De tafelradio.

Het zou de modellen van Como Audio tekort doen om ze als tafelradio te betitelen. Zelfs v2.0 zou de lading niet goed dekken. Maar als je terugkijkt in de geschiedenis van Tom DeVesto kom je om twee dingen echt niet heen: Henry Kloss (spreek uit als: Kloos) en het fenomeen tafelradio. Om te beginnen dan. Want waar je ook echt niet omheen kunt is Tom visie op hifi. En niet alleen hoe wij als consument ermee omgaan, maar ook hoe hifi verhandeld wordt. Keer op keer bekijkt hij zaken van een nieuwe, frisse kant, om er vervolgens een twist aan te geven die tot grote successen leiden. Het maakt hem tot een waar visionaire man. Gek genoeg zegt hij hier zelf over: "visionaire mensen zijn op het moment zelf maar rare individuen. Vaak worden ze niet begrepen of voor volslagen gek verklaard. Visionair ben je achteraf en dan ook nog eens volgens anderen. Ik deed gewoon wat ik dacht dat moest gebeuren."



Een stukje geschiedenis

Om alles in het juiste perspectief te krijgen, spoelen we terug naar Tom's diensttijd bij de marine. Hij kreeg daar namelijk als 16-jarige voor het eerst te maken met radiotechniek en de praktische toepassingen ervan als hij als weerman van die grote ballonnen met radioapparatuur eronder in de atmosfeer stuurde. Achteraf zou je kunnen zeggen dat deze tijd toch leidend zou blijken in zijn carrière. Niet dat hij daar ook maar enig idee van had, maar zo gaan die dingen. Hij was twintig toen hij in 1968 the Navy verliet en zijn studie begon. Je moet je voorstellen dit de tijd was van de protesten tegen de Vietnam oorlog en dat openbare discussies en bijeenkomsten zaken van de dag waren. Maar tijdens deze bijeenkomsten gebeurde er veel meer. Er traden bijvoorbeeld vaak bands op, er werd gezongen en feest gevierd. Als auteur van de schoolkrant werd Tom meer en meer betrokken bij de organisatie van dergelijke evenementen en hij merkte dat de vraag naar goede geluidssystemen, PA's dus, explosief toenam. Ondanks dat hij Engels en Politieke Wetenschappen studeerde werd hij de aangewezen figuur om aan de plaatselijke vraag naar PA's te voldoen en voordat hij het wist bouwde Tom complete systemen. Muziek speelde een grote rol in ieders leven toen. Het gemiddelde studentenhuus bestond uit een bed, een hifysysteempje en veel elpees. Er werd gewoon enorm veel muziek gemaakt. Zijn eerste PA bedrijf, Grid Sound Systems, zou uiteindelijk over de hele Verenigde Staten reizen en bands als Alice Cooper en the Allman Brothers faciliteren.

With a little help from my friends

Toch was het net voor deze rock 'n roll periode en net na zijn studie dat hij bedacht naar Canada te vertrekken. Het lot bepaalde toch anders; met het gespaarde Canadageld besloot hij een winkelpand te betrekken van waaruit hij elpees en tapes wilde verkopen. Met een bevriende hifi-specialist uit Nashville maakte hij vervolgens een deal om wat spullen neer te zetten en eigenlijk ging het toen pas echt los. Saillant detail is dat tot het merkenpakket van de specialist naast McIntosh en Acoustic Research ook het merk KLH behoorde. De laatste twee beide merken van Henry Kloss. Hun paden kruisten elkaar voor het eerst. Enfin, hoe krijg je de muziek zo goed mogelijk uit de elektronica? Dat was toen de hamvraag die Tom als specialist bezig hield. Zijn specialisme legde hem geen windeieren, het zouden uiteindelijk drie succesvolle winkels worden die hij bestierde.

Tom en Henry

De paden van Henry Kloss en Tom DeVesto zouden zich nog vele malen kruisen. Zo werkten ze hecht samen in de Advent Corporation waar ze van die enorme projectie TV's aan de man brachten. Onderscheidend was dat ze het Schmidt Optical System of corrector plate gebruikten waardoor het geprojecteerde beeld echt enorm goed werd. Een ander product dat ze maakten was een cassettape speler met Dolby B ruisonderdrukking. Ook toen was kwaliteit leidend, én waren ze hun tijd ver vooruit. Na de Advent Corporation en Kloss Video Corporation volgde een minimaal even hechte samenwerking in Cambridge SoundWorks. We spreken dan 1988. Als je het productpakket bekijkt van zowel KLH als Cambridge SoundWorks zie je dat de desktop of tabletop radio steeds de rode draad is geweest. Weer een saillant detail is dat Cambridge SoundWorks als een van de allereerste bedrijven hun business online en direct deed onder de domeinnaam hifi.com. Hoe bedoel je visionair? Het internet heette toen nog niet eens internet (maar CompuServe van AOL). In 1996 werd het bedrijf overgenomen door Creative Technology.

Tivoli Audio

In het jaar 2000 begon toch de periode waarin Tom DeVesto voor het eerst tot de top van hifiproducenten zou behoren toen hij, wederom samen met Henry Kloss, Tivoli Audio oprichtte. Marktleider Bose kwam onder directe aanval te liggen met de introductie van de Tivoli Model One. De combinatie van kwalitatief hoogwaardig tunergedeelte met langeslag full range speakersysteem en een tijdloos ontwerp dichtte een gat in de markt. Het succes van Tivoli leidde tot een hegemonie in de productgroep en werd in 2015 verkocht, dertien jaar na het overlijden van Henry Kloss. Maar Henry's geest zou voortbestaan. Tom moest er alleen nog even een jaartje over nadenken hoe hij dat precies zou gaan doen.

Como Audio

Het zou het derde bedrijf worden dat hij zou oprichten in Boston, Massachusetts, maar het eerste zonder zijn kompaan Henry. Vaag herinnerend aan zijn tijd aan het Comomeer in Italië, richtte Tom DeVesto in 2016 Como Audio op. Tom had het jaar gebruikt om zijn ervaring om te zetten naar een nieuwe visie op de toekomst. Alles zou samenkomen. Ten eerste zijn ervaring in zijn eerste winkels, waar hij de juiste snaar probeerde te raken tussen prijs/kwaliteit en klantbeleving. Tel daarbij op zijn ervaring bij Advent en KVC waar hij leerde omgaan met de nieuwste technieken toegepast in dagelijks te gebruiken elektronica. Met steeds weer

de hoge kwaliteitseisen. Maar ook de nood van muzikaliteit en gemak in gebruik. En dan de snaar raken van precies weten wat men op dit moment van de tijd wil.

The next big thing

Nu is het simpel te zeggen: als het een app heeft en met de smartphone is te bedienen, dan zit het wel snor. Maar Tom ging verder, veel verder. Want het is juist dat gemak dat gelijk een drempel in gebruik kan veroorzaken. Je moet dus naast een app wel degelijk het apparaat kunnen met een paar simpele drukken op een knop. Liefst één knop. Wat voor apparaat het moest worden, was eigenlijk een no-brainer. De volgende versie van de tafelradio in de geest van

Henry maar vooral in de geest van vandaag. De perfecte fusie tussen oud en nieuw, tussen gemak en kwaliteit met als ultieme uitkomst goede muziek. Verpakt in een aantrekkelijke behuizing, klein genoeg om te verplaatsen, maar niet te klein dat het niet meer kan klinken. Al snel was het ontwerp van de eerste Coma Audio een feit. De Solo. Een klein doosje met alles aan boord wat de muziekconsument van nu wil. Goede radio, FM, DAB+, internet. Dus ook WiFi, waardoor multiroom weer mogelijk wordt, Bluetooth en een goed werkende app. Die je niet perse nodig hebt om 'm te bedienen. Sterker nog; met een druk op de knop start je net zo makkelijk een radiozender als een playlist van een streaming provider of uit je eigen muziekbibliotheek. En dan nog te betalen ook. Combineer dit met nieuwe manieren van business doen, zoals starten via crowdfunding, en we hebben het wellicht over een grote hit. Zijn zoveelste. En hij blijft niet stilzitten. Omdat hij zich ook al jaren bezighoudt met R&D is spraakbediening een onderwerp dat bijzonder zijn aandacht heeft getrokken. Gemak dient de mens, dus wie weet wat er in de Coma pijplijn zit.

Coma Audio heeft inmiddels zes verschillende modellen waaruit je kan kiezen. Deze alles-in-één systemen hebben allen gemeen dat ze kwaliteit/prijs, uiterlijk en bedieningsgemak in een product samenbrengen. Met prijzen variërend van €399 tot €699 binnen ieders bereikbaarheid. Je zou kunnen zeggen dat het Tom alleen om de muziek gaat, maar toch ook een beetje om de business. It's all about the music and a little business in the process doesn't harm anybody.

Meer informatie op www.comoaudio.eu



21 Drydock Ave
7th Floor Suite 760W
Boston, MA 02210

(844) 644-8606
info@comoaudio.com
www.comoaudio.com

2018.06.06