

## From 2011 Stereo Times Las Vegas Show Reports, CES and T.H.E. Show

### Review by Clement Perry, Publisher

During breaks between listening and to gather myself over the ridiculously affordable and wonderful sounding VMPS RM50 loudspeakers, Jeff Wells volunteered everyone for a quick A/B listening test. The product was Jack Bybee's newest invention called Music Rails™ which essentially are miniature power conditioners - *built on small circuit boards that measurably reduce all types of noise on power supply rails* says Bybee.



(Left) Jack Bybee, co-founder Bybee Labs, Inc. and Clement Perry, Stereo Times Publisher. (Center) 15Amp Bybee Music Rail. (Right) David Kaplan, co-founder Shakti Hallographs and Winston McMiller.

Wells had a no-name amplifier specially harnessed for real blind A/B comparisons (which he plans to bring to the market in the not too distant future, Bybee Music Rails and all). Also, keep in mind, Wells is on the other side of the room partially hidden by very tall speakers and sitting behind a table. He never indicated whether the Bybee Music Rails were in or out. Also, switching was done on the fly so never more than a few seconds (15 - 20 max) elapsed. My own CD jazz sampler proved the perfect choice for me to hear any differences - if any - since nothing else in this setup was familiar to me.

It never ceases to amaze me what noise sounds like once it is removed from a system. Distortions, whatever the type, always seem to have the most negative impact on the high frequencies. Harmonics are frequently interrupted and have a way of sounding edgy, lacking true color and tonal pitch with excess emphasis on instrumental outlines rather than the whole: the entire body. It took Wells all of one A/B for me to fully understand the magnitude of the Bybee Music Rails. Everything became fuller, richer in both texture and body with a characteristic detachment from a source. In effect, it sounded as if the loudspeakers had left the room.

When I looked about the room and saw the expressions on the faces on friends like David Kaplan, Michael Golden and Kerem Kucukaslan of Echole Cable (who also uses Bybee Bullets inside a most attractive European version called the Echole Bybee AC conditioner), I knew everyone heard the differences immediately. They were not slight, indistinct or subtle.

It will be interesting to see the success of the Bybee Music Rails since debuting here at CES. My hunch is they should become an industry standard. Then, what do I know? I'm just a music lover with no electrical engineering diplomas or any fancy letters preceding my name. Heck, Bybee's a retired nuclear physicist and I know a lot of folks who don't believe him either. Guess we'll have to

wait and see. I notified Ralf Ballmann who designs my reference Behold series of electronics. He still hasn't returned my email.

Interestingly, I got this email from my friend Winston a week later on his experiences:

That Mighty Echos CD, the acapella version of *Under the Boardwalk* rumbled on the woofer with Charles Davis' bass vocal. Their falsettos bloomed on every bridge and each member's voice was easily located on the soundstage. Really nice. But with the Bybee Music Rails in place, their voices start to take shape inside and beyond the listening room's walls. The baritone floated in the air rather than on the woofer section. I was now able to hear Jon Rubin's falsetto scale down to tenor range when I had initially thought it was another singer's voice. Doing another A/B comparison, but this time switching back to the same recording without the Bybee Music Rails was like night and day. I heard screams from one commentator *Okay, stop! Put the Bybees back on!* Instead of constant artificial highs which I really could not detect prior to the A/B (why is that?), the Bybee Music Rails simply stripped away the hash leaving only the most natural hues and tones. Nice.

My friend and neighbor Michael Golden was smitten by the entire experience. Our telephone conversations have him sounded like a changed soul. He's singing the praises. Hereby officially converted into a Bybee thumper. Halleluiaah!

A little technical info on the Music Rails [gleaned from the Bybee Labs, Inc. website].

Suitable for a wide range of electronic devices, the Bybee MUSIC RAILS are direct current power conditioners - active electronic modules built on small circuit boards that measurably reduce all types of noise on power supply rails. With low noise-floor and low impedance, these exclusive devices produce a highly purified source of DC power. Unwanted noise power is reduced by a factor of 32,000 times.\* There is also measurably less interference among audio stages on the power supply rail due to nearly zero impedance output. Sonically, this results in a blacker background, faster transients, sharper image focus, better bass punch, more detail and improved definition.

\* Suppression factors may vary. Output noise equals either raw supply noise minus suppression or DCPC noise floor, whichever is higher

**BONUS BENEFITS:** Our exclusive Bybee MUSIC RAILS have shown that they can clean up what the filter capacitor is supposed to do, so fewer or less expensive capacitors can be utilized. This allows OEM equipment that uses the Bybee Music Rails to be small and often dramatically lower in cost.

**APPLICATIONS:** A Bybee Music Rail is a highly efficient polishing filter that reduces power supply noise throughout the audible spectrum and up to about 100 KHz. It is designed to be placed between the power supply rail and the load circuitry, providing 45dB of noise suppression to a limiting noise floor of less than 20nV/root Hz. With zero external parts counting for voltages up to 24V, and only three external parts for voltages up to 550V, it is ideal for equipment modifiers as well as OEM's. Two versions of the 15 Amp and two versions of the 2 Amp models are available covering positive and negative supply rails at both high and low current levels.

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