

Manley Poised For Expansion

CHINO, CA—With the successful launch of a number of new products over the past several years, and continued strong sales of existing products, Manley Laboratories has prepared for expansion of its manufacturing and distribution facility with the purchase of an adjoining building. Manley

year) have had an impact on the design side, as well as during construction. Manley technical guru, Craig "Hutch" Hutchinson explained, "The Massive Passive wouldn't have been possible without being able to do this ourselves."



One of Manley Labs 40 employees assembles a Manley Neo-Classic SE/PP 300B power amplifier.

president and CEO EveAnna Manley says the new space, currently occupied by tenants, will eventually be used for distribution and storage, relieving crowding in the current 11,000-square-foot plant. "We have maxed out our current space," commented Manley. "This purchase agreement will let us expand as we expect will be necessary."

The Manley facility uses a craft-heavy blend of manual construction and automation. Not satisfied with many of the commercially available components for its products (such as cases, coils, transformers, and even chassis-mount RCA phono and binding post connectors), the plant is equipped to machine, finish, etch, and wind parts of its own specification. Circuit boards are laid out within the "vintage generic CADD design program, then screened and etched on sight. Raw bar stock is cut, tapped and finished, and metal work engraved within the plant.

The transformer and coil-winding capabilities of the factory (over 100,000 built this

Manley's pro gear is selling well—over 1,200 Variable MU dynamics units have been sold, and the Massive Passive EQ and VoxBox vocal processor have also sold well this past year. The Langevin line of solid-state audio processors is also enjoying an increased market penetration, as are Langevin and Manley microphones. The factory's output includes six to 10 mastering consoles a year, each custom-built.

The company's product line is rounded out by a collection of high-end audiophile components—though Manley's hi-fi division only makes up 10 percent of its annual sales. EveAnna Manley has been actively renovating and creating new Manley hi-fi products over the last few years, and she says the company will more aggressively market these products when, "they are all products I can be proud of."

—Frank Wells

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Kerrigan Named Fairlight USA President

HOLLYWOOD, CA—Fairlight, Inc. has promoted Shaun Kerrigan to the position of president, Fairlight USA, the company's Hollywood-based sales and support organization. Effective immediately, Kerrigan assumes complete responsibility for all Fairlight USA operations in all of the vertical markets the company serves.

The announcement was made by David Hannay, Fairlight, Inc. chief executive officer to whom Kerrigan will report. "Shaun Kerrigan has proven himself to be a tremendous asset to Fairlight USA," Hannay said, "but, moreover, he is an even more important asset to our customers and potential customers throughout the United States. His appointment also marks the completion of our worldwide sales and support reorganization, whereby we now have in place comprehensive sales and support centers with very capable leaders in Australasia, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and now the Americas."

Commenting on his promotion, Kerrigan, who previously held the position of vice president of sales, noted, "It's been an enjoyable



Chris Rodriguez (left) warms up his voice while David Streit (right) sets the microphone distance to the wind screen for calibration. Bob Williams assists in the setup.

Vocal Mic Challenge

3D Audio Tests Continue with Microphones

NASHVILLE—3D Audio continued its series of real-world equipment tests with a two-day session where 49 vocal microphones were put under scrutiny. The mics ranged in price from \$150 to \$22,000; represented solid-state, tube, modern and vintage designs; 26 manufacturers from ADK to Telefunken; and a total value of more than \$150,000.

The tests, as with 3D Audio's mic pre shoot-out last spring, will be used to produce a CD that can allow a potential end-user to sonically compare microphones without assembling such an exhaustive test on their own. "The results were both fascinating and unexpected," commented 3D Audio principal Lynn Fuston. "The cost of the microphone doesn't always predict the sound quality, and we found we couldn't always predict whether a mic was tube or solid-state."

The microphones were borrowed from manufacturers and private collections, and a SADiE Artemis DAW was loaned to Fuston, as were microphone preamplifiers. Several of the microphones—a Neumann TLM 103, a Shure KSM32 and KSM44, an ADK Area 51—five cables from BLUE and a stereo Great River preamp were left with 3D Audio, and anyone purchasing the CD before June 2001 will be entered into a drawing

for the donated items. "Not only will the buyers of the CD get to check out all these microphones," said Fuston, "they just might have one show up on their doorstep a few months later."

Dan Kennedy of Great River served as "proctor" for the tests. Eight or 10 microphones at a time were precisely calibrated using a tone source at a set distance from the capsule, and then each sequentially repositioned for the singers. Ten channels of Great River preamps were used with the female voice on day one of testing, and a Grace Designs 8-channel unit was used with the male voice on day two. The output of the mic pres were ran through a Prism AD2 A/D converter and were recorded at 88.2 kHz, 24-bit sampling resolution onto the SADiE system, capably manned by mastering engineer and SADiE power user Glenn Meadows.

Marabeth Jordon made a repeat appearance (she was the vocal talent in the mic pre tests) for the female voice testing, and recording artist/back-up singer (CMA background singer of the year) Chris Rodriguez provided the male vocal. The tests took place at George Cumbee's Classic Recorders.

—Frank Wells

3D Audio
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Shaun Kerrigan

and educational experience to have been a member of the team that brought Fairlight into the United States. I have learned both from my colleagues and my customers, and I look forward to the challenge this new position holds."

Kerrigan is a native of Melbourne, Australia. He graduated as an electronics technician from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and has extensive experience in professional audio, having held management positions with Soundcorp, professional audio distributors in Australia, and also senior sales positions with Fairlight Europe in London. Kerrigan is a five-year veteran of the Fairlight organization.

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