

# .....TESTIMONIALS.....

## 2012

Reversing the analog-digital paradigm : The MEMORY PLAYER

My generation enjoyed music under sensible stars, and our way to superior reproduction was a matter of improving our rig, a better Reel to Reel, or superior speakers, perhaps a finer cartridge-arm combination on our turntable; all were predictable and rewarding steps in the right direction.

This all changed with the advent of “digital” media (the Trojan horse of audiophile betrayal), and the non-stop hype and sheer convenience brought us a performance that has an unmistakable character: forward, clinic, with an edge and sibilance to the sound that resulted in some curious behaviour and language alterations.

We started to talk about bandwidth extension, superior channel separation, the absence of the noise floor and/or tape hiss, yet we listened less to the music and more to the components and the tweaks that were designed to tame what was hurting our ears, and messed with our heads after any significant listening session (without any chemical additives).

I have to admit that I had a foot in both camps, and while my digital collection exceeds three or four thousands CDs until recently I had over one thousand vinyl records and many reel to reel tapes played on four different machines (Technics RS 1500, Studer PR 99 and A-810 and a Fostex E2)

All this changed now!

I mean, I still have the Fostex E2 and a handful of decent tapes to remind me and teach my two gorgeous boys about the good old path to musical Nirvana.

Sebastian plays electric guitar and has the ears of a squirrel, and Felix can hear Santa’s bell still.

With such gifted virtues they never failed before to point to my system shortcomings.

Not anymore!

Since The Memory Player took place of residence in my system everything changed.

I managed to feel, for example, the impact and exhilaration of music I have experienced when, as a young teen I listened, for the first time “Who knows” with Jimi Hendrix and the Band of Gipsy.

My heavy modified Sony SCD-1 couldn't transport me back in time, despite its otherwise ok sound. The respective CD just sounded somewhat different, definitely cleaner and more extended than the n'th generation copy Agfa tape I used over thirty some years ago, yet the magic just didn't materialise and I blamed my own grown-up bias for it.

And I was wrong.

When played by The Memory Player, the very same CD (ripped with that stunning RUR process) just did the trick with such ease and relaxed feel that it remains unbelievable while it is experienced.

Digital systems have no right to sound so good. This idea seems to resurface again and again when I listen to the music reproduced by The Memory Player.

I have a very fussy friend with an exquisite sound system; just a few years back he simply "returned" to an analog (turntable) front end, and shunned almost completely his otherwise stunning CD collection.

When he came to visit I claimed that I got a Master tape first generation copy of the "Folk Singer" and played the tape I made a few days earlier from The Memory Player output. (True, the CD was indeed a superb release by Classic Records.)

For ten minutes or more I let him extol the virtues of analog reproduction and he even said :

"I'm afraid your precious Memory Player cannot reach this level of musical delivery !"

I couldn't refrain any longer and I laughed :

"This was The Memory Player, my dear !"

My friend suspected that it was just a ploy to "sell" him the concept of The Memory Player and we set up the "blind" test (he could not see the preamp input), and I played the same song, "Cold Weather Blues" on both formats.

While the Fostex managed a fluid and exquisite delivery, through The Memory Player, the music is alive in a way beyond mere words, for example at the beginning of the track Muddy Waters shouts somewhere between the speakers with sudden and nerve wracking urgency, while a few seconds later, a very young and gifted Buddy Guy is playfully strumming the chords slightly out of beat with those relaxed, yet agile fingers. Young, maybe, but a master of his guitar already !

I mean, the machine wasn't there anymore; rather a bunch of musicians during what was to become a historic session.

One can say that The Memory Player is a time machine after all !

We listened further to Miles Davis' "Tutu" and Rameau's "Zoroaster" and many more titles of superb processing, or humble beginning, yet the music never stopped flowing with infinite liquidity and never failed to make justice to the artist and its intent, emotion, and soul.

Through this digital server, everything is communicated with a mixture of attributes unheard before, a discrete panache of the highest class brought Ella Fitzgerald in the room, or a balanced, yet enthusiastic rendition of the baroque fireworks from Monteverdi's *Vespre della beata Virginiae* transported us to Santa Barbara basilica in Mantova, Italy.

"This is the server I'll get when I'll be ready !" decreed my friend, before leaving spellbound.

With any other front end out there, one can identify areas that may benefit from yet another incremental upgrade.

In my humble opinion, this audiophile game ends with The Memory Player. I cannot see any possible improvement possible. I don't feel that anything is missing from its stellar performance, and like few other audiophile masterpiece out there, I believe that this wonder of scientific achievement is a complete, fastidious and supremely accomplished piece of gear.

I want to express my gratitude for such miracle of engineering, because against the common knowledge and beyond the run of the mill solutions, with this machine, Mark Porzilli gifted the World back what had been promised a generation ago, and until now, never before delivered.

Thank you very much!

*Cristian Manole, New Zealand*

Sound system : *The Memory Player, Sony SCD-1, Muse model 5 transport and 2 DAC, Fostex E2 Reel to reel tape player, PS Audio 7.0 solid state and Luxman valve preamplifier, Whise HD 1500 electrostat/hybrid active speakers and Aurum Cantus Leisure 2 monitors, Stax Lambda Pro earspeakers and Fergusson line conditioner.*

While listening to Nova Physics' Memory Player 64, there is a temptation to get up and walk into the soundstage and thank each musician for showing up in my sound room. So stunningly dynamic, dimensionally palpable, harmonically realistic, and distinctly human are the images rendered by the MP64 that they surpass the best of vinyl and stand head and shoulders above the myriad edge-of-the-art transport/DACs I have auditioned. In a system with astonishing powers of realism, I have never felt so eerily present at the event as with the MP64. It's the stuff of goose bumps and body rushes.

Because of the MP64's freedom from jitter, its unprecedented resolution of micro and macro dynamics, and its timbral faithfulness, each recording is an intense interaction between the musicians, the instruments, the recording venue, and the listener. I look forward with a true sense of excitement to the next recording where I'll be immersed in the air, the delicacy, the rosin, the strings, the majesty, the shimmering, and the breath of another live event.

***Rod Handley***  
***Audiophile for 37 years, former musician***

FYI: My dealer/friend was over yesterday afternoon and I played some tunes on my 64 Bit MP and he was absolutely floored !!

He said he had never heard digital sound like that and it was by far the BEST he has EVER heard and the MP bested ANY vinyl rig he had ever heard !!

He also heard my MP prior to your 64 bit upgrade and he was AMAZED at the improvement.

***Tom Alleman***  
***Audiophile, New Jersey***

More than five years after its initial release, this newly introduced 64-bit version Memory Player outperforms the original and anything else CD-based or otherwise I've heard. I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future: The MP's designer, Mark Porzilli (review in the works - Clement Perry).

***Clement Perry***  
***Publisher, The Stereo Times***

I started using the Nova Physics Memory Player in 2008. Started with the transport only version, hooked to my old and trusty MBL 1511 DAC. After reading so many rave reviews about the Modwright Platinum Transporter, I hesitantly sold my MBL to make room for the Transporter. I would say the Transporter did not disappoint. Dan Wright did an excellent job in bringing the performance of the Transporter to a much higher level. It also gave me an opportunity to experiment with different tube combinations, involving the popular 6SN7's and 5U4G's.

What's so cool about the Transporter is it has an excellent DAC and this allowed me to use it as a conventional streamer and also as a DAC for The Memory Player via its XLR input. By copying my RUR music files from The Memory Player's hard drive to my laptop feeding/controlling the Transporter, I was able to do numerous experimentations, and compare RUR files directly other music files ripped with other softwares such a

dbpoweramp, Nero, Exact Audio Copy , different versions of Windows Media Player and so on.

While you will read various posts on online forums that bits are bits and all softwares should sound the same, it is the exact opposite in my experience. I also had fun comparing the sound of the Transporter being fed wirelessly from my laptop (conventional use), and being fed by The Memory Player via its XLR input, using the same music files copied from the Nova Physics Memory Player into the laptop – and ultimately stayed with the Nova Physics Memory Player feeding the Modwright Platinum Transporter. The sound of this combination has a much lower hint of edginess, or should I say, digital glare. The tone of the human voice is more natural, and provides a more solid bass definition.

When I had an opportunity to set up another system, I sent my unit back to Mark Porzilli for the software update and the installation of Mark's new DAC. When I received my unit back from Mark, it had the 32 bit player/RUR, IDEAS and the D2D DAC. Compared to the Transporter, I was surprised to find out how the Transporter still sound "digital" as compared to the full blown Nova Physics Memory Player. I hope I can say this without offending Dan and the rest of the Transporter crowd (I think it is still a great player that far exceeds its tag price), but in my humble opinion – The Memory Player sounded more analog like, has more air and is more natural sounding. I am very happy with both of them, and intend to keep both for a long time. Mind you, I still have an old MBL CD player that does not get any playtime anymore, digital playback has come a long way that even some respected gadgets of not so long ago has to take the back seat. I also have a Garrard 401 based analog rig, which sounds not too shabby – but the level of performance of the Nova Physics Memory Player and the ease and convenience of use does not give me any incentive to go back to flipping records every half hour or so.

I will never claim that The Memory Player is the greatest/best sounding playback system ever – because I have not heard them all. I came into the audiophile world in search of a medium to bring me to an enjoyable level of musical playback in my living room. While ordinary music lovers might frown upon reading my audio journey, I still consider the twists and turns as necessary to get me to where I am today – and the Nova Physics Memory Player is an integral part of it.

I have always been a music lover, but consider myself as a late comer into high end audio. I always knew what it's all about, but had to take care of some necessities first. During my information gathering stage – it has been explained to me in great detail how the source is important in putting together a good playback system. I grew up flipping records too, and can still vividly remember my disappointment when I first heard a cd played in my father's Akai stereo, whose sound I was so accustomed to.

I did a lot of reading (over a year) before I took the plunge in buying my Memory Player. I can still remember how Sam Laufer exerted great effort in emphasizing to me that the Memory Player is a software based system and how it is different from the more conventional audiophile digital audio players (CD players). He wanted to make sure that

I fully understand what I am getting into. I made my buying decision based on what I know, and what I believed in.

Mark Porzilli's approach is quite different from the rest of the designers who are trying to overcome the shortfall of the digital playback – jitter. The RUR and IDEAS are both software, and based on the result I am experiencing – I would dare say that they are effective. The only drawback (and a lot of people squawked about this on online forums) – was it was quite expensive – but having said that, I fully understand. The softwares were written for specific purpose for specific (audiophile) market. The biggest enemy of The Memory Player is that most audiophiles buy stuff and think about how much they will get for it when they sell it. If somebody is able to look beyond that, and listen to what The Memory Player can achieve, the decision will be much easier.

For me, this software based system has a distinct advantage over a hardware based system. Mark has since tweaked The Memory Player (now with better ripping software, 64 bit playback) a few times with big improvements – hard to imagine improvement offered on similarly priced hardware based players in the market in 2008, the year I got my Nova Physics Memory Player.

***Fernando Dimailig***  
***Canadian Distributor, The Memory Player***

This new Memory Player is absolutely a dream come true. I've owned each edition and this one is by far my favorite and most impressive. The new GUI is out of this world; very simple and intuitive.

...I feel the MP64 is unmatched, in either analog or other digital machines. I'm blessed to be a part of this experience. I know I've said this time and time again, but I must tell you, I'm in love with the new user interface. It's awesome.

***Moreno Mitchell***  
***The Stereo Times***

.....THE BEGINNING.....