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## Introducing you to our new thesis on music reproduction

The term "thesis" comes from the Greek **θέσις**, meaning "something put forth", and refers to an intellectual proposition. If so, we have a very strong thesis to put forward indeed ....

### Our thesis statement

Our **thesis** – a new superclass of Heed electronics and loudspeakers – is the living proof that it is possible to create audio equipment that makes recorded music, "engraved" in bits or grooves, come alive – audio holography at its best.

### Abstract

Music reproduced by the bulk of higher end audio equipment is often described as "precise, neutral, or uncoloured". *Comme il faut*. High fidelity note for note. Full stop. The pundit has spoken. But shouldn't it be "thrilling, spellbinding, or enchanting"? Just for the sheer pleasure of it...

We hardly go to live concerts out of "political correctness", to listen to music just because it sounds uncoloured and pristine! We immerse ourselves in music again and again because it touches our soul, moves our limbs, mesmerizes our senses, thrills and captivates us. If we want to kindle and rekindle this fascination, we have to create true wonder-weapons that render music in its full complexity, unfathomable atmosphere and tension, make music "walk on the wild side" again.

### Method

Topologically, it is generally known that Heed's concepts are also "adventures on the wild side". Unconventional, sometimes even heretical approaches that leave technical conformity and school-book thinking far behind. As you might expect, the new **thesis** range also ventures far off the beaten track of the sadly unimaginative world of audio today. With its characteristic visual appearance and unique life-like sonic presentation, the **thesis** range will pull clear of the familiar pack of audio products. It will stir emotions in the Heed tradition.

### Result

Listening and discerning? Absolutely! Measuring and explaining? No, we do without superfluous technical mumbo-jumbo chock-full of watts, hertz and dB and prefer to remind you instead that it's the pure joy in music listening that counts. If audio equipment is capable of nailing you to your chair for hours and putting a big grin on your face, then be assured that it's the "real thing", no matter what the data tell you.\*

### Forget hi-fi ... remember music ... this is our thesis.

Conveying a sense of quality and value, the **thesis** components are anything but bare-bone purist products in a frumpy package – rather the opposite. These are cutting-edge 21-century constructions housed in a distinct "retro-futuristic" case, as our engineer puts it. We have achieved it by combining the neat Obelisk-format with a high level of sophistication in look and feel, as well as operation that is usually to be found only in much pricier regions of high-end audio.





The **thesis  $\alpha$**  (alpha) preamplifier sports two analogue and four digital inputs including S/PDIF, TOSLINK, BNC and USB. All inputs, as well as volume setting with muting function are remote-controllable via our new RC handset. A twin capacitor-coupled output stage caters for driving long cables and connecting two sets of power amplifiers to drive speakers in bi-amp configuration. The analogue section of the **thesis  $\alpha$**  is fed by the **thesis  $\pi$**  twin PSU which can also supply the  **$\phi$**  phono stage with power simultaneously.



The analogue circuit of the **thesis  $\alpha$**  is a new design from scratch, while the digital section based around our Dactil 2.1 DAC and USB 2.0 modules (by using card slots both modules are upgradeable in the future) is an enhancement of our exceptional Obelisk DA digital-to-analogue converter – „one of the finest USB DACs I have had the pleasure to audition, probably at any price“, attested the renowned journalist Malcolm Steward in Hifi-Choice and Top Audio Gear. And this world-class performance is surpassed by the **thesis  $\alpha$** !



The **thesis  $\pi$**  (pi) twin power supply can feed the  **$\alpha$**  and  **$\phi$**  preamplifiers simultaneously. It has two independent sections, each with dual regulated power supply rails. In order to ensure an absolutely clean and stable power delivery, the **thesis  $\pi$**  uses high-grade components custom made by Airlink and Mundorf to our specifications, all massively over-specified for smooth and effortless performance even when pushed to its limits.



The **thesis  $\phi$**  (phi) is a no-compromise phono pre-amplifier for all vinyl connoisseurs using a top-class turntable. Just like the  **$\alpha$**  preamp, it is also fed by the **thesis  $\pi$**  twin PSU. By using two independent – MM (moving magnet) and MC (moving coil) – amplifier circuits, it is possible to use two record players connected simultaneously. Cartridge matching is highly customisable for gain and impedance on the rear panel of the unit by jumpers. Noise characteristics, dynamic range, headroom and frequency response of the **thesis  $\phi$**  are second to none.



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The **thesis  $\omega$**  (omega) monobloc power amplifier is an AC-coupled device in true Heed fashion that drives loudspeakers in a similar way to valve power amplifiers, but without their inherent problems related to the vacuum tube. Despite certain topological similarities to its valve counterparts, the **thesis  $\omega$**  is best described as a quintessentially solid-state power amp that successfully gets around the often sterile, lifeless sound of most solid-state devices. We believe that connecting amplifiers to speakers by AC- instead of the prevalent DC-coupling results in a much more natural, less “cropped” decay of tones. Freed from the cost containments of the Obelisk power amplifiers, we could achieve a no-compromise implementation of this topology in the **thesis  $\omega$** .



With its very generously sized power supply, unlike valve amplifiers, it is also extremely stable even into the most difficult loads – continuous power delivery up to 160W or capability of driving loads down to 1.6 Ohm speak for themselves. It is capable of driving all kind of speakers except those with very low efficiency.



In short, the **thesis  $\omega$**  power amplifier epitomises an almost alchemical synergy of solid-state stability and the finesse and “live” magic usually achieved only by 300B triodes in valve amplification.

If Heed were a pure electronics manufacturer, our thesis would end here. We are, however, designers and manufacturers of all-encompassing audio equipment. Just like our Obelisk/Enigma concept, the thesis also consists of electronics and loudspeakers. These are bound together in a synergic entity in which the speakers play a pivotal role. So let us introduce you to our second “enigmatic challenger”, the **envoy of thesis**.



Following our non-directional speaker concept that first jelled in the Enigma, we have turned over a new leaf and created the **envoy**, a bigger enigma – literally. It is a dual TMR (transmissionline-reflex) 2.5-way non-directional speaker that improves on the Enigma in almost all respects. By using two 6.5 inch drivers in two separate quarter-wave TMR chambers, the **envoy** performs an exceptionally deep, voluminous and dynamic bass response, while its state-of-the-art tweeter not only preserves the Enigma’s uniquely open and holographic mid-upper range but makes it even more detailed, transparent and tangible. A breathtakingly realistic reproduction of music in all its facets, spaciousness and immediacy that casts a spell over the listener.

\* Technical correctness is of course a necessary prerequisite of designing top class audio equipment, something that we consider exceedingly important, but it's not enough on its own for authentic music reproduction.