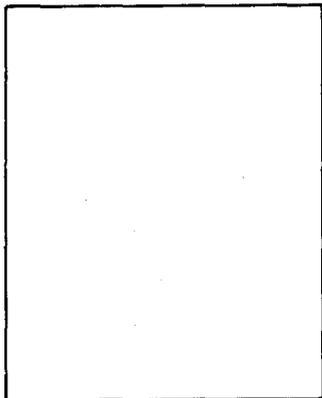


Sight and Sound News for December tells of Yamaha's centenary celebrations, the foundation of Ozfi and a host of new releases.

# Sight and Sound News

## Cover Shot



## Surround Sound

The NEC Surround Sound components modify basic

stereo signals to create a 'fill-in' channel between the left and right channels. This slight front-to-rear delay produces a sense and depth of sound from behind, thus apparently creating the theatre experience.

NEC developed four types of Surround Sound effects:

- Dolby, which decodes the original Dolby sound track to create in the user's home the same sound effect applied in movie-theatres;
- Hall, which recreates the ambient sounds of a concert hall;
- Matrix, which allegedly creates the effect for the listener of being in the middle of a stadium or outdoor arena, and adds extra life to broadcasts of concerts or sporting events;

- Creation, which allows the user to custom design Surround Sound effects according to his or her own tastes.

NEC's Surround Sound component range consists of the AV-250 and AV-300 stereo amplifiers, the AVR-700 receiver and the AVD-700 decoder. Both amplifiers offer 30 watts power per channel and three Surround Sound processors — Dolby, Hall and Matrix.

The AVR-700 receiver delivers four power amplifiers with 70 watts per channel into rear speakers. It provides both Dolby and Matrix Surround Sound effects and AM/FM digital synthesiser tuner. The AVD-700 decoder offers 16-bit digital delay circuitry and all Surround

Sound effects. It features terminals for ten audio and five video systems.

NEC's audio-visual system combines the A-1300 Surround Sound amplifier, the T-601 digital synthesised AM/FM television set and a VCR.

This audio-visual package can be operated by NEC's unified remote control, which allows independent operation of the audio components, the television and the VCR. With it, the user can adjust both front and rear volume in the Surround Sound system, scan or give direct access to 16 memory presets on the AM/FM tuner and operate the numerous functions of the CD player, television and VCR.

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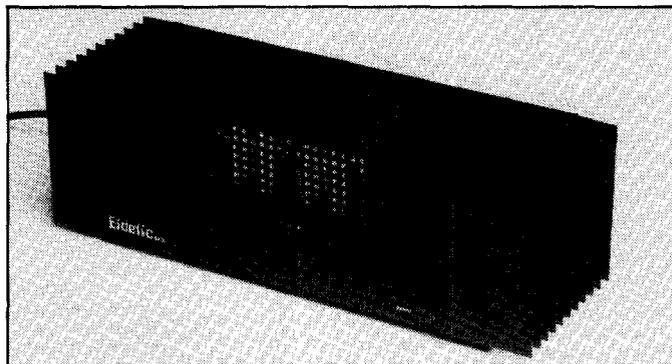
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## Eidetic Amp

Australian designer Greg Ball was in Sydney last October to launch a new power amp, the GB1b, developed by his firm Eidetic.

Reasonably fresh from the United States where he worked as a designer/consultant from Madrigal, Ball has been working on both this amp and a preamp which he plans to market in the new year. He has already aroused interest (and orders) from audio specialists and designers in this country and in the US for his power amp. In fact, Ball is reason-

ably confident about his export prospects. With contacts back in the US who already have worldwide dealerships and interest expressed by the *Absolute Sound* magazine, he is in a fairly happy position, made even more so by the cheap freight costs of his rather small, compact unit, weighing only 7 kg.

The GB1b power amp measures 425 x 140 x 160 mm and is styled rather like the Haffler unit with a chassis design of 35 per cent open upper area, and heatsinks out to the sides. All active heat

generating devices are mounted directly to the externally finned heatsinks to ensure minimal thermal lag, internal temperature rise and component ageing.

Ball's strong claim is that the GB1b will drive any loudspeaker from 1 to 8 ohms nominal impedance more accurately than any other amplifier at any price. The amp is rated at 150 to 300 watts with less than 0.002 per cent THD at 1 kHz 8 ohms, and less than 0.05 per cent THD at 1 ohm, 20 Hz to 20 kHz. Frequency response is 20 Hz to 20 kHz  $\pm 0.1$  dB, signal-to-noise ratio is over 100 dB(A) re 1 watt 8 ohms, and dynamic headroom is 2.2 dB at 8 ohms. Gain is 29 dB or 28.3 times.

The GB1b power amp retails at \$1500.

READER INFO No. 121

# Eidetic

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