



Sometimes, however, you just have to abandon yourself to the big thrill -- Halcro and Wilson Audio provided one of the biggest at the CES. Technically not an HT demo -- there wasn't a monitor in sight -- the Wilson/Halcro setup nonetheless showed the true potential of multi-channel in the home. Driven by about a zillion watts of bridged Halcros, a full complement of Wilson speakers (MAXX, WATCH, WATT/Puppy 7s) simply took me to wherever the music was. It would do the same thing with DVD, too, I'm sure.

But the point was not that it could make multi-channel commercial recordings sound good, which it did -- at least better than almost anything else I've heard. (Most pop recordings, at least, are just downright perverse in their insistence at putting stuff in the rear channels that just should not be there.) No, it was what the system did with Peter McGrath's four-channel recordings of acoustic music in real halls. The effect was subtle and profound. The music wasn't just in front of us -- it surrounded us with its presence and energy. We were immersed.

After hearing that, I simply left the show. Nothing could top *that* demo.

Imagine having something like that to go home to every day. *That* would keep you going.