

# What the Press wrote of Halcro at CES 2001

Widescreen Review Issue 147  
*Impressive Products @ CES*  
By Gary Reber

## **DTS Ultimate Entertainment**

No doubt the best 5.1 home theatre presentation at the CES was delivered by the folks at **Digital Theater Systems (DTS)**. Expanding upon its corporate mantra to deliver the "ultimate entertainment experience" to consumers, DTS® treated the 2001 CES attendees to an exceptional home theatre demonstration. In a joint effort with Scottsdale, Arizona-based **Ultimate Entertainment** (one of the top custom installers in the world), the DTS exhibit booth demonstrated state of the art picture and sound quality for home entertainment.

The Ultimate-designed home theatre system featured a double-stack of Vidikron Vision One CRT video projectors, the Xantus up-converter by Teranex, five top-of-the-line Grande Utopia loudspeakers from JM Labs, JBL Professional 4645B subwoofers, the new Halcro amplifiers with ZeD technology, a micro-perfed Ve-Lux Deluxe Snapper Screen from Stewart Filmscreen, a Crestron Touchscreen and control system, and Extreme Performance audio and digital cables from AudioQuest and video cables by CinemaQuest. The experience was absolutely breathtaking!

Stereophile, April 2001  
*Consumer Electronics Show, Part 1*  
Jonathan Scull on Expensive Electronics

Halcro made a splash with their lavish two- and multi-channel setups and the dm 58 (200W) and dm 68 (225W) monoblocks, which are--all together now--vertically *oriented!* Very handsome and architectural, they come off more Phillip Johnson than I.M. Pei, with just a *touch* of X-Wing fighter--a sort of H shape sure to jingle Boomer hormones. The amps range in price from \$10,000 for the dm 33 three-channel to \$35,000 for a pair of dm 68s. Halcro makes many, shall we say, *definitive* statements about their amps and technology, such as: "the only amplifier in the world to challenge a theoretical limit," and "that limit is the specification for harmonic and IM distortion," which they said they've virtually eliminated, though the circuit that achieves this is a closely guarded secret. (For the full 20/20, see [www.stereophile.com/shownews.cgi949](http://www.stereophile.com/shownews.cgi949).)

The Absolute Sound, Issue 129, April / May 2001  
*CES 2001: What's Hot*  
By Robert E. Greene

Halcro: The JM Labs Focal tweeter is hardly my favorite high-frequency driver, but somehow with the ultra-low distortion Halcro amplifier, something of unusual purity emerged. Only a quick impression with an unfamiliar recording, but it seems the Halcro designer is on to something. All you need is the money (\$23,900 - see Sweeney's review, Issue 128).

The Absolute Sound, Issue 129, April / May 2001  
*CES 2001: What's Hot*  
By Jonathan Valin

And for you home-theater and surround-sound fanatics, the DTS suite at the Las Vegas Convention Center, where five JMLab Grand Utopias, coupled with I don't know how many JBL sub-woofers, and driven by Halcro amplifiers and DTS professional surround-sound processor, produced what was unquestionably the finest surround-sound I've heard at any show (and also

produced, via stacked Vidikron Vision Ones and TeraNex processor, the best video I've seen). My congratulations to Bob Rosser of Ultimate Entertainment in Phoenix - setting up two channels of stereo is always a bitch under show conditions, but setting up *five* plus sub-woofers as successfully as he and Chris Stephens did is close to miraculous.

**STEREOPHILE GUIDE TO HOME THEATER May 2001, WRITE UP ON THE 2001 LAS VEGAS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW.**

**BY Thomas J. Norton**

**Wretched Excess Done Right Award:**

If you simply must put together a system that passes the six figure mark several times over, you want to do it at least as well as DTS did at the CES 2001: First, grab a space large enough for a small inaugural ball. Next, ask the folks from Ultimate Entertainment in Phoenix to fill it with their choice of the best gear: five JMLab Grande Utopia speakers (US\$35,000 each), two custom JBL 18-inch subwoofers, five Halcro dm68 monoblock amps (US\$17,500 each), nine Halcro dm58 monoblocks (US\$12,000 each), a stacked pair of Vidikron Vision One-X projectors (US\$75,000 each), a Teranex Xantus video processor (about US\$90,000), a theta David II DVD player (about US\$5,000), and a TAG McLaren AV32R surround processor (US\$4,000).

The Vidikron One-X Projectors were customized versions of the stock, US\$50,000 Vision One and incorporated numerous mods, including a video processor to each Vision One-X was via a single digital cable, with the video D/A performed in the projectors. Each Grande Utopia speaker was biamped with two Halcro amps, one each dm58 and dm68 (curiously, the smaller dm58s were used on the Utopia's bass driver). The remaining four dm68s were used to drive the subs, a bridged pair of each used to drive each 18-inch driver.

As I said, wretched excess, but no one who visited the room was complaining about the near-virtual-reality picture or the sound, which was at once spectacular and effortless. Even with conventional DVDs used as source material, it was easily the most impressive setup at CES, and generated long lines throughout the show.

**The STEREO TIMES**

**2001 CES Show Report**

**My First Trip to the CES**

*Henry Wilkenson*

*April 2001*

The most unusual amplifier in appearance has to be the **Halcro**. The **dm68 monoblocks** are rated at 225 watts per channel and are designed to work into any speaker load. The amps are separated into four heavily shielded compartments, thereby providing greater protection from RFI and EMI. Premium parts throughout with careful attention paid to optimizing each of the amp's stages.

The **Halcros** were driving a pair of **JM Labs Mezzo** speakers with the **SONY SCD-1** as the front end. A great deal of care must be used when selecting components to be used with these amplifiers. Their very revealing nature will show up the flaws and character traits of anything connected to them. Simply put, these amps are among the best that I have ever heard. They are extremely transparent, yet never hard or overly detailed. They display a relaxed and effortless quality, presenting the music in a way that made you forget about the system. These mono amps are something that you will be hearing a great deal about. Their sonic goodness will set you back about \$23,900 per pair.

**Finally, Best Sound at Show! By Clement Perry.**

The award had to go to two rooms, **Halcro** and **Viac / Lumen White**. They were just too good for one to be judged against the other. The solid-state **Halcros** created the same sound I heard at Singapore Show. It was quite a relief to be able to prove to the guys that I wasn't fantasizing.

## **Stereophile, May 2001**

### *CES 2001: Larry Greenhill on Accessories & Surround Sound*

**DTS** delivered a knockout home-theater demonstration at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Steely Dan's "Cousin Dupree" was snappy, rhythmic, and highly involving, while jaw-dropping dynamic range and bass impact were heard during the depth-charge run from the film *U-571*. The no-holds-barred high-end system that carried off this demo was provided by Bob Rosser of Ultimate Entertainment in Scottsdale, Arizona: five **JMLab** Utopia speakers driven in biamped mode by 10 **Halcro** DM-58 200W monoblock amplifiers (\$24,000/pair), with two JBL subwoofers driven by four bridged **Halcro** DM-68 225W monoblocks (\$35,000/pair).

The Absolute Sound, Issue 129, April / May 2001

#### *Coming Attractions*

By Scot Markwell

Naturally, an overwhelming number of products to see and hear (some brand new and some carried over) appeared at the 2001 Las Vegas CES. Herewith the top ten-plus from our reviewing Wish List. There will be more...

Halcro's DM68 solid state monoblocks amplifiers (big brother to the DM58 reviewed, issue 128) auditioned briefly and at low volume because of a set-up with very little gain. Despite this limitation, they sounded so pure and beguiling as to almost defy description. (Upstairs)