



CEDIA 2018

At this year's CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association), KLH introduced new architectural product, including the VX-1 Voice Enabled Amplified Keypad. KLH CEO Dave Kelley and the rest of the KLH team were busy showing the audio industry that KLH is alive and well, and delivering some great new products.

KLH

Soundstage! Global Brent Butterworth-Senior Editor



Normally I don't expect much when someone revives a once-revered audio brand, but the relaunch of the KLH brand at the CEDIA Expo was beyond impressive. I expected to find someone slapping the brand on a few generic Chinese OEM products, but the line of 28 freestanding, in-wall, in-ceiling, and outdoor speakers is the creation of former Klipsch global sales president David Kelley and a team of veterans with decades of experience at such brands as Klipsch, Polk, Definitive Technology, and Carver. The flagship speaker is the Kendall tower (\$1299.98 per pair) shown here, which had a neutral, open sound that reminded me of my Revel F208 tower speakers. Each Kendall packs two 6.5" woofers, a 5.25" midrange, and a 1" aluminum-dome tweeter. The line will be available through brick-and-mortar audio dealers as well as through Crutchfield and World Wide Stereo.

KLH Shows New VX-1 Amplified Keypad and Maxwell CI Speakers by Mark Henninger on September 10, 2018-AVS Forum



KLH is an iconic brand that is in the midst of a rebirth. The company held offsite meetings during CEDIA 2018 where I took the opportunity to check out its new

products, including its lineup of tower and bookshelf speakers. The products included an innovative amplified keypad, the VX-1, that lets you retrofit existing in-wall single-source speaker wiring into a multi-room streaming audio system in just minutes. With 25 watts per channel and no power loss for runs up to 500 feet, it's a cool little box.

The company also showed a new line of architectural speakers, the Maxwell line, that sounded sublime. These speakers come with sealed back boxes and are tuned as a closed system, instead of operating as infinite baffle speakers. I heard some tunes play through a pair and was really impressed with the dynamics and imaging. It was not as powerful as what I heard coming from the free-standing KLH towers, but the detail and dimensionality of the soundstage was impressive.

CEDIA 2018: KLH's New Speakers and VX-1 Wall Amp Shine During CEDIA Demo

Todd Anderson-AVNirvana



(September 6, 2018) Yesterday, the massive CEDIA show floor sat in a mid-day-state of half-baked disarray, swarmed by hundreds of workers busily erecting the world's greatest home theater playground. Yet a few lengthy blocks away at an offsite location, KLH and its new team of executives and engineers confidently inhabited a full-featured demo room loaded with the company's new gear, eagerly awaiting the opportunity to set ears on fire.

I had an opportunity to spend some quality time with KLH's new owner, Dave Kelley. As detailed in our KLH news feature last week, Kelley is a weathered industry veteran that's serious about great audio. And there's little doubt that his passion for sound and design – not to mention the experience and talent he's recruited to craft KLH's rebirth – is primed to push the 60-year-old brand back into the lime light.

Kelley is quick to point out that his goal is to honor KLH's original mission, which is to deliver "affordable quality to the masses." And he's doing so without cutting corners. We spent quite a bit of quality time with the company's new Kendall model, a speaker that's a veritable work of art. The amount of detail poured into the Kendall – from a brushed metal tweeter surround laser etched with the KLH logo, to an impressively robust cabinet that's impeccably finished – is absolutely astounding, especially considering the speaker's highly attractive price tag of \$1,299 per pair. If there ever were a case of a speaker looking and sounding twice its price, this is it.

During a private demo session, the Kendall proved to sound fantastic. Its high-end was notably smooth and transparent, issuing the kind of highs that aren't shy about revealing detail while remaining non-fatiguing. And the speaker's bass ability was ultra-smooth and confidently rounded without dominating the presentation. Add to that a super-wide soundstage loaded with character and depth, and the Kendall offers truly impressive performance for the price.

While I didn't have an opportunity to hear some the Kendall's brethren in action – KLH had most of its new speaker models on display – they all share the same impressive physical characteristics. And because the company's speakers are voiced the same, Kelley says they are easy to mix and match.

I also had an opportunity to see and hear KLH's slick VX-1 wireless wall amp in action. The VX-1 can be fitted on a wall, taking up no more space than a simple light switch or passive volume control. Using the KLH app, owners can link more than one VX-1 together for multi-room performance, quickly add other users, and establish a wireless connection that can be managed via your favorite streaming app. And – more importantly – the VX-1 accepts both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connections, with the ability to stream Hi-Res audio.

Its design is simple. It's elegant. And it has an opportunity to be a game-changer. The VX-1 was paired with some of the company's architectural speakers, driving them with clean sound and zero hesitation. Speaking of architectural designs, I also enjoyed hearing some of the company's Maxwell in-walls in action. Much like the speakers' impressively hefty build quality, the Maxwells didn't disappoint, and should enjoy quite a bit of success in the custom install segment.

New KLH Is Coming To CEDIA Owner David Kelley is leveraging the brands past and rewiring its future

Alan Wolf-TWICE



A reformed KLH, now owned and led by David P. Kelley, formerly global sales president of Klipsch, will make its custom-channel debut during next month's CEDIA Expo 2018.

Kelley acquired the iconic audio brand in 2017 and assembled a team of former Klipsch execs including Greg Topp, sales senior VP; Sal Cannatella, product development senior VP; and chief technology officer Steve Howell.

"KLH is one of the most storied and revered audio brands in the world, founded by one of the most iconic engineers in the history of consumer electronics," Kelley said of the late Henry Kloss, who was an inaugural member of the CE Hall of Fame.

Kelley plans to revive some of KLH's signature designs, like the Model Eight radio and Model Nine electrostatic loudspeaker, along with a few "hybrids," he hinted. In San Diego, KLH will introduce a voice-enabled amplified Keypad (model VX-1) outfitted with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth with aptX, and HiRES audio circuitry. The company describes it as a retrofit solution for transforming a single-source home audio system into a wireless multi-source streaming music system.

The Keypad becomes Alexa voice control-enabled when used with a free MUZO iOS/Android control app. In addition to local zone, adding any Amazon Alexa device allows voice-enabled control of other sources or components throughout the home. The device is priced to hit a \$199 retail, and shipping is slated for October 2018.

The VX-1 fits into a standard single-gang electrical J-Box. Leveraging the existing speaker wire runs, an onboard 50-watt high-grade Class D digital amplifier and dedicated external DC power supply together drive the existing speakers in the homeowner's audio system.

The included HiRES Audio-certified digital-to-analog converters are capable of up to 24 bit/192 kHz decoding, and the VX-1 supports most audio file formats including FLAC, DSF, APE, WAV, AIFF, MP4 and MP3.

The entire KLH line, including a collection of high-performance in-room, architectural and outdoor speakers, will be demonstrated during CEDIA Expo at the InterContinental San Diego in Bayview Ballroom B on Sept. 6-7.

Links To Articles

<https://www.avforums.com/klh-shows-new-vx-1-amplified-keypad-and-ci-speakers-cedia-2018/>

<https://www.avnirvana.com/threads/cedia-2018-klh's-new-speakers-and-vx-1-wall-amp-shine-during-cedia-demo.3320/#post-27277>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSA8TnrIZo>

<https://www.soundstageglobal.com/index.php/shows-events/cedia-expo-2018-san-diego-usa/782-cedia-expo-2018-speakers-part-1>

<https://www.soundstageglobal.com/index.php/shows-events/cedia-expo-2018-san-diego-usa/785-cedia-expo-2018-in-wall-in-ceiling-and-outdoor-speakers>

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