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The PSB Alpha PS1 Loudspeaker - Pristine, Palpable, Prodigious and Provocative



I met Allan Russo during the mid-eighties at a winter <u>CES</u> in Las Vegas. We immediately struck a chord and developed a very close business/personal relationship which lasted until he passed away in 2008. I felt obliged to write a tribute and so dedicated my <u>first ultraaudio article</u> to him. In 1995, Allan had introduced me to the Lenbrook Group of companies which now owns <u>NAD</u> and <u>PSB</u>. At the time, being in charge of Latin American sales, he was instrumental in Sanch becoming part of the international team.

One of the latest offerings from PSB is the <u>Alpha PS1</u> powered loudspeaker. "The PSB Alpha PS1 takes its most popular Alpha Series concept to an entirely new level by building a high-performance amplifier into the left speaker to make a versatile desktop solution with enough acoustic output to rock a small to medium sized room.

"Simply plug your computer, game console, tablet or smart mobile device into the Alpha PS1 and you have a complete sound system - one with a high-end audio pedigree. For the ultimate in gaming excitement and dramatic home theatre effects, an optional powered subwoofer can easily be added by connecting to the convenient subwoofer output.

"The volume control will now adjust the Alpha PS1 speakers and the subwoofer together in perfect synchronization. If you crave a sonic boost for your TV, computer, CD, DVD or Blue-ray player or any other device, the Alpha PS1 won't disappoint. You can even go wireless by using Apple's <u>AirPlay</u> ecosystem and just connecting an <u>AirPort Express</u> to the Alpha PS1. The universal power supply works with any AC voltage making it convenient for world travellers."

With its sleek, elegant feline curvature and piano-black gloss finish, the Alpha PS1 immediately reminded me of the Rockport Arrakis. However from a realistic perspective that comparison would be akin to standing a toddler alongside the Willis Tower! My one concern is that the cabinet could have been more inert. However, achieving that goal would have put the final cost way beyond the competitive retail price range predetermined by Paul Barton and his team. Perhaps they will consider building stiffer enclosures if the design concept is further incorporated into the company's *Imagine* and *Synchrony* series.

For auditioning the PS1, I recommend the commemorative 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary triple CD recently released by <u>Delos</u> and sold for the price of one. My ultraaudio feature <u>this month</u> heralds that *great American Label* for soothing our troubled world with reflective, contemplative and uplifting music for four decades.

Simeon L. Sandiford Managing Director