

Xitel Overview

Product Backgrounder:

HiFi-Link™

The Xitel HiFi-Link represented Xitel's first major thrust to become a worldwide brand delivering a range of precision digital audio products to both consumer and professional markets. It allows for the connection of a Windows or Mac computer to a home stereo or boombox to get the most from MP3s, streaming audio and Internet Radio. Users can take advantage of the HiFi-Link's advanced rendering technology to process digital audio directly from the USB without the signal degradation, distortion and hiss of an inferior soundcard.

Bypassing the generic soundcards included in most computers is critical to obtaining high fidelity audio. Soundcards are typically a poor source for high quality audio simply because they act as rudimentary audio processors for output devices such as headphones and multimedia speakers. Soundcards also reside in a noisy environment inside the computer's case, caused by electromagnetic radiation emitting from all unshielded components. HiFi-Link is an entirely external device. Because it is effectively isolated from this radiation, and due to its specific design for connecting exclusively to stereo equipment, it produces an optimum signal for superior performance.

Pro HiFi-Link™

Pro HiFi-Link builds on the HiFi-Link's architecture by allowing DVD surround sound, Internet Radio, streaming audio and MP3s to be digitally played from a PC to a home receiver, amplifier, or portable boombox, creating a listening experience that is more alive, vibrant and natural. Its unique plug 'n' play interface transforms the PC into a high quality digital media center, allowing users to radically improve their existing audio performance in a few simple steps. Its superior rendering technology digitally processes audio directly from the computer's USB into an optimum signal perfectly matched with the coaxial, optical or RCA inputs of a home stereo system.

By totally bypassing the computer's soundcard, the Pro HiFi-Link sophisticated hardware engine ensures the same level of performance typically associated with premium audio components. Its versatile technology even allows users to play DVDs on their computer and send Dolby® Digital or DTS® Digital Surround Sound to 5.1 channel receivers via distortion free coaxial or optical digital cable for an amazingly rich home theater experience. Due to its outstanding performance, the Pro HiFi-Link has received numerous awards including PC Magazine's 5 Star Rating of Excellence & PC World's Editors Pick.

INport™

Xitel's INport allows users to record from their stereo to their computer to digitally save vinyl records, tapes and other music safely on their hard drive. INport is a premium quality USB interface designed specifically for high fidelity recording with

professional components and advanced ground loop isolation to ensure the best possible results.

Aimed at the millions of people keen to digitally save their valuable LP records and tapes, the INport dramatically improves the recording capabilities of any computer without having to open the case. Incorporating a sophisticated digital-rendering engine, the INport's high fidelity USB interface bypasses typically inferior soundcards to transform a desktop or notebook into a powerful recording studio in a few simple steps. Designed to work with all Windows compatible recording and editing software, the INport comes with its own powerful suite of applications that greatly simplify the recording the process, making it easy to achieve fantastic results with an absolute minimum of fuss.

MD-Port I/O™

Xitel's prominent involvement in USB audio design and manufacture led Sony to bundle the MD-Port AN1, DGI and DG2 with its MiniDisc recorders worldwide. The newest MD-Port I/O builds on that success by allowing users to record music from PC to MiniDisc, and from MiniDisc back into their computer with the highest possible fidelity and convenience.

The MD-Port I/O has been specifically built for MiniDisc applications and offers a totally custom platform by bypassing the generic soundcards found in most computers. Soundcards are a typically poor source for MiniDisc recording because they act as rudimentary audio processors and lack digital output capabilities. The MD-Port overcomes this through its external design, fully isolating it against distortion or interference caused by radiation sources. Integration of unique features and components ensure superb fidelity with advanced optical digital output and ultra clean analog input for maximum clarity & definition.

The MD-Port I/O's digital optical output supports all music formats not recognized by NetMD's transfer software, including real time streaming content. Meanwhile its input works seamlessly to record from a MiniDisc headphone jack back into the computer. The MD-Port I/O works with all Windows compatible recording and playing software, including Windows Media Player, Winamp, RealAudio Player, LiquidAudio Player, MusicMatch Jukebox, and many others.

Ground Loop Isolator (GLI)

Xitel's Ground Loop Isolator is designed specifically to stop the annoying ground loop hum that can result from connecting various components to home stereo equipment. As the trend towards more and more consumers playing digital audio from their computers through their stereo systems continue, many are discovering an annoying hum in their speakers. Xitel's Ground Loop Isolator enables consumers to continue to connect to enjoy pristine audio without any background interference.

The Ground Loop Isolator works by breaking the earth between a computer and stereo to ensure no ground path exists for current from an electrical imbalance to flow. This simple and

effective way of eliminating ground loop issues preserves the full fidelity of all music while preventing speakers from humming. Built to exacting audiophile standards, the Ground Loop Isolator includes features such as gold plated terminals to ensure the best possible performance.

SOUNDaround™

SOUNDaround is the first product in Xitel's new line of ground breaking consumer electronics. It allows users to turn DVD movies and games into vibrant home theater surround sound using two normal speakers. With SOUNDaround, you can convert your existing stereo TV or home stereo equipment into a fantastic sounding home cinema without having to install any additional speakers or other expensive equipment.

Most audio companies' would have you believe that in order to create realistic home theater sound, you need to fill your room with speakers. This is largely because they want to sell you those new speakers along with the necessary cables and amplifiers. This can be expensive and also requires precise installation to get things right. If a speaker is placed wrongly, or if you install the wrong speaker, the results can be very disappointing. SOUNDaround is a solution that gives you a movie-like experience without any complex installation or the additional cost of expensive equipment.

SOUNDaround transforms the two normal speakers in most of your existing equipment into a rich cinema experience. It is based on advanced principals of psychoacoustics, which is the technical way of describing how your brain processes what your ears hear. Using complex mathematical calculations, the SOUNDaround stimulates your brain into believing sounds are coming from all around using just two ordinary speakers. In a matter of minutes you can enjoy home theater sound through your standard home hi-fi, stereo TV, or even headphones.

Corporate Background:

Xitel™ Pty Ltd. has a 29-year history of developing and marketing technically advanced audio and electronic solutions. Over that time, the company has designed, engineered, and manufactured more than 50 product lines and millions of units for an elite list of OEM partners, including Sony, Siemens, Raytheon, HSBC, Netcomm, Telstra and many others.

The Early Years

Xitel was founded in 1976 by Barrie Davis, a renowned microprocessor designer who had at that stage developed several breakthrough products, including the world's first microcomputer controlled CRT terminal (built around Intel's 8008 processor). In the following decades, Xitel continued to release numerous control, communications, and networking devices in partnership with some of the world's leading companies - securing several patents along the way.

Digital Audio Pioneers

Since 1996, Xitel has been a pioneer in the field of precision audio technology and has delivered a range of innovative products, including a line of critically acclaimed sound cards targeted toward the PC gaming market.

Xitel commenced a relationship with Sony in 1999, when Sony first approached Xitel about using their MD-Port product line to form a MiniDisc bundle. The MD-Port leveraged Xitel's proprietary digital audio rendering technology and almost overnight Web-enabled Sony's line of portable MiniDisc recorders. This allowed the MiniDisc bundles to successfully compete against an array of MP3 players that entered the market in 2000 and 2001.

Sony's MiniDisc bundles went on to become the highest selling digital audio products in North America for both 2000 and 2001. With its proven manufacturing ability, Xitel was not only able to meet the rapid increase in demand, but was also able to provide such exceptional quality that not one field failure was returned by Sony. As a testament to Xitel's thorough product development, support calls were received only on a fraction of a percent of the total number of units shipped. In recognition of its high standards, Sony has since awarded Xitel the prestigious status of Sony Green Partner.

The success of the MD-Ports inspired Xitel to use its core audio technology in a broader range of applications. This resulted in the launch of HiFi-Link™ in June 2002, a device that allowed consumers to connect their computer to their home stereo as though it were a piece of high-end audio equipment. Xitel quickly followed with additional high fidelity audio products including Pro HiFi-Link, MD Port I/O, Ground Loop Isolator, INport and SOUNDaround.

Privately Held and Growing

Xitel remains privately held, with Barrie Davis, its Chairman and CEO continuing to have a controlling interest. Headquartered in Canberra, Australia, Xitel has recently opened new channels of distribution in North America, Europe and Asia. The company continues to deliver the highest quality products at aggressive price points, all backed by one of the best support organizations in the industry.

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