



Company Profile: Ferguson Hill

With a history as unusual and striking as its products, Ferguson Hill is a British designer loudspeaker specialist. Combining fabulous sound quality with an unmistakable sense of style, its distinctive speakers have already won the brand global acclaim and continue to enhance the way music lovers enjoy their favourite artists.

Ferguson Hill was founded by Tim Hill, a former aeronautical engineer who was lured from a career designing planes by the London music scene. Whilst working as a photographer for more than ten years after abandoning his placement at British Aerospace for the capital, he was always consumed by a passion for music and spent several years building and selling acoustic guitars from a studio in London Bridge. Despite the popularity of his custom made pieces, Tim became interested in creating his own speakers and, inspired by the traditional and impressive horn speakers of 1930s cinema, set to work on his own designs in 2003.

Since the classic horn shape needs to be large in order to fully support bass tones, Tim used his aeronautical expertise to calculate the exact dimensions and shape that the speakers would take (although he did take into consideration what would actually fit through a front door). Following some false-starts made from plywood and plaster, which required four people for transportation, it became clear that Perspex would be a lighter and more attractive option – and Tim set to work constructing a metal frame that would become the basis for his groundbreaking FH001 model.

The process was a humble one: Tim took sheets of Perspex, heated them using a number of ordinary electric bathroom heaters, and pulled the material into shape over the metal frame. And while the result was not nearly as sleek as the speakers that would eventually result, it was enough for him to realise that what he had was a commercially viable - and highly desirable – speaker system. Tim contacted a plastics company who would be able to produce the speakers on a large scale, and quickly patented his revolutionary design.

Tim soon secured a R&D grant which enabled him to produce a prototype and get the first FH001 models into production. The speakers gained popularity with music lovers first on the continent, then across the globe. In 2007, Tim successfully launched his second set of speakers; the FH007 mini system to widespread acclaim.

With a fully operating business and fabulous reviews, Tim saw the opportunity to expand the product range still further. As the demand for quality home cinema TV systems continued to

grow, bringing to market a high quality, stylish home theatre sound system was the next logical step. Realising the potential of the product, Tim recruited respected research scientist, Dr Bradford C. Backus from UCL's Ear Institute to help refine the FH009's audio capabilities.

Dr Backus holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Speech and Hearing Biosciences and Technology and trained in acoustics under Dr. Amar Bose. He previously worked for Bose Corporation and was the inventor and designer of the renowned ARCAM rCube wireless iPod speaker system. He has also worked for leading otoacoustic emissions company *Otodynamics*.

Dr Bradford C. Backus is now Ferguson Hill's Head of Acoustics and Chief Technical Officer. He assists in research and development whilst also fine tuning the range of speaker systems to produce the world class sound that Ferguson Hill is now famous for.

Business Development Manager, John Spindler heads up commercial operations. Spindler has had over 15 years' experience as an entrepreneur and business advisor/consultant as well as being the CEO of Capital Enterprise.

The FH009 Home Theatre System will launch to market in December 2011, producing exceptional sound quality and featuring the same unique design as the original FH001. Through all the product range, there remains a lifelong passion for music and sound and a commitment to outstanding design; all of which Ferguson Hill continues to keep at the heart of its offering.

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Press contact

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About Ferguson Hill

Ferguson Hill is a British designer loudspeaker specialist. Founded in 2003 by former aeronautical engineer Tim Hill, the company arrived on the hi-fi and audio scene with the design, manufacture and launch of the groundbreaking FH001, the world's first ever front loaded horn dipole loudspeaker. The independent UK company is recognised for its high end horn loaded loudspeakers and hi-fi components. Ferguson Hill now distributes to over 30 countries worldwide.