



# PRESS RELEASE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## JBL PROFESSIONAL AND CROWN INTERNATIONAL INTRODUCE COMPLETE DIGITAL CINEMA AUDIO NETWORK SOLUTION

**LAS VEGAS, NV - MARCH 4, 2003** - JBL Professional and Crown International proudly introduce the world's first digital-audio control, distribution, and monitoring network for cinema applications. The Digital B-Chain (DBC™) system announced at ShoWest 2003 is an advanced approach to digital cinema audio featuring proprietary communications technology specifically designed for cinema system applications.

Currently, the industry standard B-Chain system is a group of analog signals distributed from the cinema processor to the amplifiers and loudspeakers. The new technology introduced by JBL and Crown keeps the chain completely in the digital domain, therefore maintaining digital audio throughout the B-Chain and optimizing original audio production intentions. Included in the same network cable used to distribute multiple channels of uncompressed digital audio is a system wide control and monitoring layer. Crown's "One Click" solution allows the Digital B-Chain system to distribute all the digital audio and data to each discrete channel on standard fast Ethernet hardware.

Included in the demonstration system are the Academy Award®-winning patented technology of JBL ScreenArray® screen channel speakers as well as subwoofers, both featuring internal Crown amplifiers, and powered JBL surround systems. All speakers are installed with internal Crown proprietary digital communications technology. The Crown Digital B-Chain (DBC™) processor accepts both discrete analog audio as well as digital audio inputs. The JBL/Crown system maintains the audio in the digital domain, thus eliminating unnecessary A/D conversions.

The internal fully programmable digital signal processing allows preset configurations for loudspeaker crossovers, time alignment, and room equalization. This feature is especially useful for digital cinema programming of multiple source content, since the auditorium can be configured for a broadcast concert or other alternate programming, and instantly reconfigured to the perfect movie presentation environment.

Advantages to the new Digital B-Chain system include the capability of system-wide diagnostics. Control and monitoring enables complete access to all servers, amplifiers and speakers on the network. Automated error reporting allows technicians and users to learn about potential system errors before they happen and alerts technicians immediately of any problems, providing specific data on where to locate the problem.

Other advantages to the all-digital system include lower infrastructure costs - the entire audio system can be controlled and monitored on the same facility network as concessions management, box office ticketing, HVAC, etc. The new digital capabilities are adaptable to any existing B-chain system. The digital network is simple to design - components are pre-chosen, simple to install, and simple to operate. Full audio system control is available via custom control screens designed to match floor plan and functional flow, and the network allows for multiple computers to access the system in multiple locations. The system also provides security, notifying management if any speaker or amplifier is disconnected.

Demonstrations of the DBC™ system will be held in Bally's Palace Suites 6 & 7 during ShoWest in Las Vegas. The new DTS XD10 Cinema Media Player will be utilized as the content server for the demonstration.

Headquartered in Northridge, California, JBL Professional is the world's leading designer, manufacturer, and marketer of professional loudspeakers for recording and broadcast, musician, cinema, touring sound, commercial sound and contracting applications. For complete product and company information, go to the JBL Professional website at [www.jblpro.com](http://www.jblpro.com).

Crown International manufactures amplifiers, microphones, and systems control products for professional audio markets worldwide, with corporate headquarters located in Elkhart, Indiana. For more information, please visit Crown online at [www.crownaudio.com](http://www.crownaudio.com).

JBL Professional and Crown International are part of the Harman International network of professional and consumer audio companies. Harman International Industries, Incorporated is a leading manufacturer of high-quality, high fidelity audio products and electronic systems for the consumer and professional markets. The Company's stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol: HAR.

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