

## PRESS RELEASE



### Harpex gives soundfield recordings a sharper edge

*Harpex Ltd today announced Harpex-B, the first high-resolution surround processor for soundfield recordings. Available both as a plugin and a stand-alone player, these tools make an already versatile surround and stereo recording technique even more interesting.*

**Oslo, 31 March 2011** – Soundfield microphones have gained a faithful following since their introduction thirty years ago and are today offered by several manufacturers. They are commonly used both as compact stereo microphones and surround microphones. They already provide more post-production possibilities than any other portable recording technique. With the introduction of Harpex-B, several new and useful possibilities become available:

- Precise rendering of the frontal stage in 5.1 surround with good channel separation.
- Emulating non-coincident microphone techniques like ORTF or AB with a single, compact microphone unit.
- Adjusting the ratio between reverberant and direct sound.
- Emulating high-resolution 3D dummy head recordings.
- Isolating sound sources through sharp spatial filtering.

"This is not just another B-format decoder," explains Svein Berge, inventor of the harpex algorithm, "while research on high-resolution B-format processors has been going on for at least fifteen years, this is the first time that this class of processing has been shaped into a useful product."

B-format is the standard surround format for soundfield microphones. While conversion between B-format and other formats has always been possible, the spatial resolution has been limited to that of first-order microphones. This is insufficient for the frontal stage of 5.1, 6.1 and 7.1 speaker layouts. High-resolution processors make use of advanced signal processing that mimics the kind of spatial analysis that a human listener uses to separate and localize the many sound sources in a complex sound scene. This results in a level of channel separation and spatial definition that has never been possible before.

#### Availability

Harpex-B is available from 31 March 2011 at [harpex.net](http://harpex.net). The stand-alone player is free of charge and supports the Windows, Mac OS X and Linux operating systems. The plugin costs GBP 498 and is compatible with VST, Audio Unit and RTAS hosts on Windows and Mac OS X. It has a 30 day free trial.

## **About Harpex Ltd**

The Norwegian-British company Harpex Ltd was founded in 2011 to commercialize the soundfield-related research activities around NOTAM, the Norwegian Center for Technology in Music and the Arts. It is based in Oslo, Norway.

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## **Contact**

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## **Press kit**

The press kit includes a demo video, pictures, sound examples and a free copy of Harpex-B. It is available at the following address:

<http://harpex.net/presskit20110331/>