

### What Jon Brought THIS Time...

By: Dio

So, Jon and I had just finished a very weird dinner but that's REALLY another story.

We were on our way to my place to listen to some music. I had just been fortunate enough to purchase a pair of Vandersteen Model 5s and the last 2 one-meter pairs of Audioquest Extreme Diamond. There would never be more of this wonderful wire. Anyway, I got to my place first and Jon rang the bell and walked in with a new amp stand from a company called Zoethecus. Never heard of it. So he says, "Play a few things and get the system warmed up and then we'll compare your Target stand to this one." So the platters and CDs spun and then he said to pick one to use for comparison and play it and then we'll change amp stands (like that's going to make a difference, I'm thinking). I put on a Japanese pressing of Tracy Chapman's first album; great album, but I always thought it a little muddy and confused. The 5s were pumping and the rest of the system warmed up and I thought it sounded pretty good. So Jon says leave all the settings alone and let's change amp stands. So Jon lifted my ARC VT100 and we slipped and slid and we managed to replace my Target with the Zoethecus.

Jon sat down and I cued the Linn and we sat back. All the time he knew what was going to happen. My jaw dropped, my ears opened and, man, what a difference! Mind you, I had just spent thousands on my system and here was a \$650 wooden amp stand with a magical shelf making it sound like never before. I listened more and had to have one. Then he says, "I have to take this one back as a demo." WHAT? I had the checkbook out and the pen poised! So, we removed the Zoethecus and replaced my old stand and listened again. Or should I say refused to listen. The album that just blew me away sounded like crap. I didn't want to play anything. I had been spoiled. Then Jon says, "Oh, it'll take 3 to 4 weeks to get your amp stand." WHAT? You bum. He smiled and mumbled something about anticipation being good for you.

One more note, when the stand did arrive and everything was in place we listened to a MoFi of Steely Dan's "Gaucho." Even Jon was amazed an album he had had enough of years ago was brand new. We could actually understand the words we thought we knew by heart. Truly amazing. A \$650 piece of non-electronic gear worth as much, sonically, as anything in the system.

Oh yeah, I just ordered a 4-shelf rack from the same company.

What's next, Jon?