

The Lincoln Walsh Story

Lincoln Walsh was born on Nov. 3rd, 1903 and passed away on Nov. 17th, 1971. He was a brilliant engineer possessing several degrees from Brooklyn College, Stevens Institute of technology and Columbia University.

Early in his career he formed the Brook Amplifier Company. Later, during WW II he worked with Dr. Rudy Bozak at the Dinion Coil Company where the two of them developed high voltage power supplies for Radar systems.

During the years after the war, Mr. Walsh again worked in collaboration with Dr. Rudy Bozak in the development of the “Kettle Drum Baffle” associated with the first Bozak speaker systems. Lincoln also worked as a member of the war planning board. It was there that he met his future wife Harriet. Together, they lived in Millington N.J. for many years until Lincoln passed in 1971. Unfortunately, they did not have any children.

Lincoln’s interests extended well into the field of Acoustics and Loudspeaker design. One of his greatest discoveries in this field and final great gifts to music lovers the world over was his invention of the “Coherent Wave Transmission Line Driver” which was patented in 1969 via. The US patent # 3,424,873. Application for this patent was actually filed in 1964.

The Walsh Driver consisted of a very steeply oriented single cone driver largely made of metal foils and mounted vertically with respect to the speaker box or cabinet.

This unique single driver produced coherent sound waves in a full 360 degree dispersion pattern and covered the entire audio spectrum from 20 Hz to 20 KHz. Because of its unique properties, containing no multiple drivers and no crossovers, these drivers lacked time and phase distortion common in all piston drivers of the day and today as well. The Walsh driver is still considered by many to be one of the finest loudspeakers to date. Only the underlying physics can be improved using materials and techniques today that were not available 35 years ago. This is the goal of HHR Exotic Speakers, to once again bring this gem to the forefront with a new cut and finish.

In 1971 Martin Gersten Formed Ohm Acoustics Corporation. Gersten, realizing the potential of the Walsh design purchased the Walsh patent rights

from a metal casting company that had invested in Lincoln's design, but failed to develop it. With Marty Gersten's delicate guidance and his personal invention of the high power edge-wound anodized Aluminum ribbon wire voice coil (US patent 3,835,402), the Ohm Walsh "A" was born. Unfortunately, Lincoln passed away just before the unveiling of his speaker to the public. He never got to see his gift in action.

Mr. Gersten went on to develop the Walsh model "F" from their previous work, a smaller less demanding version of the "A". This speaker truly gained notoriety and quickly became one of the best loudspeakers in the world. Under Marty's guidance Ohm Acoustics became a very successful company employing more than 100 people and producing revenues over 7 million per year. Martin then sold the company in 1978 to its present owner and chief engineer Mr. John Strohbean.

Ohm Acoustics stopped the manufacture of both the "A" and "F" in 1984 as they were so incredibly demanding to build and to service. Building on what he learned from the Walsh driver, John designed a smaller more conventional series of speakers utilizing some of the Walsh concepts in a two-way system. Based on an inverted woofer cone and augmented with a standard domed tweeter, these Walsh speakers are still produced today and represent about half of their current production line products.