

## **JBL COMPANY MILESTONES**

**1902** - James B Lansing born in Illinois.

**1927** - Lansing Manufacturing Company founded in Los Angeles. James B. Lansing and Ken Decker principal officers.

**1934** - Douglas Shearer of MGM heads team which designs first practical commercial two-way loudspeaker system for motion picture use. Lansing builds components for the system.

**1937** - Motion Picture Arts and sciences Academy awards MGM and Lansing special technical award for furthering sound in the theater (Shearer System).

**1939** - Ken Decker killed in plane crash. Lansing forced to look for additional financial support. Begins manufacturing products for Altec Service Corporation.

**1941** - Lansing Manufacturing Company acquired by Altec Service Company. Lansing begins a five year contract with Altec.

**1943** - Lansing develops improved manufacturing methods, including flat wire milling and highspeed winding of ribbon wire voice coils.

**1943** - Lansing designs the 604 Duplex loudspeaker.

**1944** - Lansing and Hilliard redefine the state of the art for the motion picture theater with the A-4, dubbed Voice of the Theatre.

**1946** - At expiration of contract, Lansing leaves Altec and founds a new company, Lansing Sound Incorporated, to pursue new directions in transducer and sound system design. Name soon changes to James B. Lansing Sound Incorporated.

**1947** - JBL introduces the D-130 15" loudspeaker, which was the first known use of a 100 mm (4-inches) diameter flat wire voice coil and high efficiency magnet structure in a cone transducer.

**1949** - James. B. Lansing dies; William Thomas assumes presidency. Company undergoes hard times; moves three times in as many years.

**1950 ~ 1953** - Thomas establishes JBL as a quality, high-end company dedicated to excellence in engineering and industrial design. Bart Locanthi begins 20 year

engineering relationship with JBL. Concept of acoustical lens commercially introduced.

**1953** - JBL adopts cast iron Alnico V magnet structures, the most efficient in the industry.

**1954** - JBL introduces the model 375 high-frequency compression driver. This was the first commercially available 4" diaphragm driver and afforded flat response to 9 kHz.

**1954** - JBL enters cooperative ventures with both Ampex and Westrex to manufacture components for theater use. The model 375 100 mm (4-inch) aluminum diaphragm compression driver was introduced. Marks beginning of JBL Professional products division.

**1954** - JBL introduces a family of acoustic lenses, developed by Locanthi.

**1954** - Model 075 high-efficiency, high-frequency ring radiator introduced.

**1955** - Leo Fender of musical instrument fame incorporates the model D-130 into his famous guitar amplifiers, signaling JBL's entry into the music reinforcement field.

**1956** - Hartsfield corner horn system introduced. Still manufactured in Japan.

**1957** - Ring radiator high-frequency compression tweeter developed.

**1958** - JBL introduces the Paragon stereophonic loudspeaker system, incorporating a cylindrical reflecting principle for superior stereophonic imaging in the home. Arnold Wolf responsible for industrial design of Richard Ranger's patented reflecting system.

**1961** - Special monitor system developed for Capitol Records (later to be acquired by EMI of England). The system was adopted by EMI for worldwide use, thus beginning JBL's important role in the studio.

**1962** - JBL introduces the first two-way studio monitor using a high-frequency compression driver with acoustical lens.

**1962** - First commercial use of the passive radiator in loudspeaker systems.

**1965** - JBL introduces the-"T-circuit" output configuration for high performance solid state amplifiers.

**1965** - JBL designs a family of musical instrument loudspeakers for Leo Fender of electric guitar fame. This marks the beginning of JBL's role in music reinforcement.

**1968** - JBL introduces the 4310 and 4311 three-way bookshelf monitors, perhaps the best known three-way bookshelf system of all time.. This systems lives on today through the model 4312.

**1969** - Sidney Harman acquires JBL from William Thomas. The company embarks on a period of accelerated international growth through the Harman distribution companies.

**1969** - The L-100, a consumer version of the 4311, is introduced, eventually reaching sales of 125,000 pairs during the decade of-the seventies.

**1972** - JBL becomes largest domestic manufacturer of branded consumer loudspeaker systems.

**1973** - JBL introduces the expanded line of 4300-series monitors, including the 4350, industry's first fourway designs.

**1974** - JBL monitors dominate in U.S. recording studios.

**1976** - JBL's monitors rank first in the US recording industry survey conducted by Billboard.

**1976** - Giant sound system at California Jam marks JBL's rise to preeminence in the tour sound industry.

**1977** - JBL moves to new location in Northridge, California.

**1977** - JBL is acquired by Beatrice Foods as a result of Dr. Sidney Harman's appointment as undersecretary of commerce by President Carter.

**1978** - JBL develops SFG magnet structure in the wake of world cobalt shortage.

**1979** - JBL introduces Bi-Radial patented horn technology for improved pattern control, smoother response and lower distortion. Patented diamond surround introduced for compression drivers. Extends response of original 375 driver an additional octave to 20 kHz.

**1980** - Harman reacquires JBL.

**1981** - Bi-Radial monitors introduced. Building on the acoustical concept of flat power response, the 4400-series monitors quickly gain acceptance by the recording industry.

**1981** - L250 four-way consumer system introduced.

**1982** - Titanium is introduced as a diaphragm material in compression drivers, giving extended frequency response. World's largest sound system at US festival over 2,000 individual JBL transducers, marking JBL's dominance of the tour sound industry.

**1983** - The model 4660 defined coverage system. Based on Bi-Radial technology, the system provides tailored coverage for speech application in rectangular spaces.

**1983** - JBL is reasserted as significant force in motion picture market. Lucasfilm adopts JBL components for their THX system. JBL introduces defined coverage horn for sound reinforcement use.

**1984** - Titanium dome tweeters are introduced into consumer products, providing superlative response to 27 kHz.

**1984** - JBL system chosen for installation in Goldwyn Theater of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Majority of film studio and new theater construction converts to JBL.

**1984** - UREI acquired by JBL, bringing electronics design and manufacturing expertise to JBL's traditional line of loudspeaker components.

**1984** - The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences selects JBL components for the new system in the Samuel Goldwyn Theater.

**1985** - The Everest DD 55000 system is selected by Japan's Stereo Sound as Product of the Year.

**1988** - JBL acquires the British Soundcraft line of recording consoles for recording and reinforcement applications.

**1989** - The Directors' Guild of America selects JBL components for the systems in Theaters 1 and 2 in their Hollywood headquarters building.

**1990** - JBL develops VGC (Vented Gap Cooling) for raising the thermal power limits of low frequency transducers.

**1991** - JBL's K-2 loudspeaker system is selected by Japan's Stereo Sound as Product of the Year.

**1992** - JBL introduces new lower midrange compression driver with matching horns.

**1993** - JBL develops new "rapid flare" low distortion compression driver and matching family of horns.

**1995** - JBL introduces the revolutionary EON System

**1995** - First-ever patented dual coil Differential Drive® Loudspeaker for pro sound reinforcement.

**1996** - HLA Series with patented Space Frame® array element design, multi-band waveguide and composite subwoofer enclosure introduced.

**1999** - JBL is the official "Sound of Woodstock". First in 1969, then in 1994 and again in 1999.

**2000** - JBL announces VERTEC™ Line Array System, which debuts at the Democratic National Convention.

**2000** - JBL introduces the EVO® intelligent loudspeaker system with DSP self-control.

**2001** - JBL VERTEC system used for Presidential Inauguration, Washington, D.C., for a crowd of 300,000 persons.

**2002** - JBL VERTEC system used for major special events including the Superbowl, the Grammy Awards and the World Cup Opening Ceremony (Seoul, Korea).

**2002** - JBL's John Eargle, Mark Engebretsen and Don Keele receive a Scientific/Technical Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science honoring their development of cinema loudspeaker systems using constant-directivity horns and vented-box low frequency enclosures, first embodied in the JBL 4675.

**2002** - JBL's Bernard Werner and William Gelow receive a Technical Achievement Award for "the engineering and design of filtered line arrays and screen spreading compensation as applied to motion picture speaker systems" as employed in JBL ScreenArray © cinema loudspeaker.