



Smooth operator: Caelin Gabriel is the man behind sweet-sounding audio. Picture: ROB BAIRD

Cable guy

Peter Familiari details how a US electronics wiz has found a way to block audio-video noise and interference

FORGET Hollywood and Tom Cruise. In the real world, US audio brand Shunyata Research CEO Caelin Gabriel has done Mission Impossible — twice.

As a scientist with the military wing of America's top-secret National Security Agency, Gabriel helped build a listening device that could hear an ultra-low-level signal even when it was saturated by random noise.

The experience paved the way for Gabriel's next feat of techno magic when he developed audio-video cables and power systems that kill noise and interference.

"After my military stint, I worked in the computer industry developing high-speed networking devices in the early days of the internet," he says.

"When I learned you can't assume cables have a neutral effect on a system, I put away text-book theories."

By 1999, Gabriel, a serious music lover and self-confessed audio-video nut, began applying what he had learned by unleashing a company — Shunyata Research.

Based in Poulsbo, Washington state, the plant builds eight audiophile-grade mains power leads, interconnect and speaker cables and four revolutionary power board systems.

In five years, Shunyata Research has climbed the mountain.

Audio engineer Doug Sax used Shunyata products to master the SACD version of Pink Floyd's classic album, *Dark Side of The Moon*. Others to use the products include James Guthrie who, with Sax, is considered one of the world's best recording and mastering engineers.

The highest accolades for Gabriel's genius, though, come from a pedigree list of major recording studios.

All of Sony Music's

SHOW AND SELL

SHUNYATA'S COMPLETE range will be on working display at this year's *Herald Sun* Home Entertainment Show.

Now in its ninth year, the event is Australia's longest-running dedicated audio visual show.

Judging by the long list of never-before-seen brands and models, this year promises to be the most exciting to date.

Debuting at this year's show are Shunyata, Halcro, dCS, Eggleston Works and Shanlin Audio.

Systems poised to provide sonic and video fireworks comprise gear from Electra Audio, Ear Science,

Whatmough Speakers, Osborn Acoustics, Ambience, VAF, Tannoy, Onkyo, Denon, Marantz, Panasonic, Sharp, Mission, Dynaudio, Moon Audio and Musical Fidelity, Wintel, DOSS and DEC and many more.

Visitors can also buy a full range of audiophile-quality DVDs and CDs and take advantage of the many heavily discounted show specials on offer.

The *Herald Sun* Home Entertainment Show is on again at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre as part of the Home Ideas Show, April 15 to 18.

For more information: **dmg world media, ph: 1900 931 798**

mastering systems in Japan use Shunyata. As do Lucas Films (*Star Wars*), Memory Technology in Japan and in Britain, David Gilmour's (Pink Floyd) Astoria Studios.

Why has this heady list of industry heavyweights come on board?

"Because these people can hear the way our products can passively isolate and filter noise without degrading the music," Gabriel says.

"I was frustrated by what mains noise could do to my audio system. I became obsessed with finding out why."

A practising Buddhist, Gabriel approached the issue in the same centred way he conducts his life.

He realised household appliances — high-current devices such as airconditioners, electric heating systems, fridges, fluorescent lights, dimmers and digital electronics — create the "noise".

But he says the primary cause of noise and interfer-

ence is our own audio-video systems.

"You can trace it back to the radiation of high-frequency noise from digital processors and switching noise from power-supply rectifiers.

"Our products work to eliminate or reduce this kind of pollution."

But he resists the idea that one single item such as a Shunyata cable can act as a magic wand.

"We approach all of our designs as systems of discrete parts that are matched to create the perfect whole.

"If you can extract just 2 per cent of improvement in any one area, then do the same for all the other variables, pretty soon you arrive at a sound that you can clearly hear is better."

It's this kind of honesty ensures the greatest audio brands continue to endorse Shunyata.

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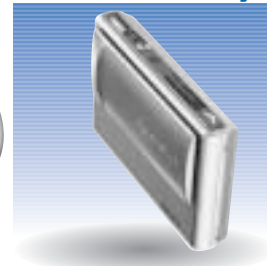
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