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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
**AUDIO EXPO**  
*Listening In Paradise*

**Greg Weaver's Best Of FIAE 2025 Blue Note Awards**  
The very best stereo systems at the FIAE 2025 high-end audiophile show.  
Florida International Audio Expo 2025 Show Coverage By Greg Weaver







## Greg Weaver's Best Of FIAE 2025 Blue Note Awards

While many of the rooms detailed above *may* have been considered for a top five spot for my *Enjoy the Music.com* Best Of FIAE 2025 Blue Note Award, here are the ones that unquestionably earned their place on that list. While they all accomplished remarkably exceptional performances deserving of their inclusion on this list, the order in which they are presented is entirely random. Let's have a look...



## Room 451 – BADASS, Margules Audio, And Deep Dive Audio

I've had the pleasure of knowing Bruce Ball, principal of the newly organized Ball Audio Distribution And System Solutions, or BADASS for short (wink ?), from my many years spent covering the Consumer Electronics Show held in Las Vegas annually. His featured product lineup includes those of Margules Audio, located in the Roma Norte region of Mexico City, Mexico. I've had the distinct pleasure of knowing Julian Margules since we met in the late 1990s, when the first Margules Audio product I reviewed, the Margules FZ47dB Phono Stage, was published in the fall of 1999.





Margules has been making electronics since the late 1920s, and Julian Margules, the third-generation company leader and product designer, now helms the company. The Margules flagship line of products, featuring several of their 30th Anniversary Special Editions, were on display in this system. This series of products are all handcrafted and employ their specific design philosophy, an innovation they refer to as ANA® - an anagram for their Acoustic Neurologic Alignment. This technology focuses on how we as humans process and perceive sound. The ANA approach prioritizes the recreation of the critical harmonic structure of the musical envelope the products render, rather than merely focusing on their fundamental tonality.

#### Sources:

J.Sikora Initial MAX Special Edition Turntable, \$17,250

J.Sikora KV12TVA 12" Tonearm, \$8,995

Ortofon AS-309R Tonearm w/headshell, \$3,728

Aidas True-Stone Gold Web Cartridge, \$5,995

#### Electronics:

Zesto Andros Deluxe II Phonostage, \$8,300

Margules Magenta MS-OI Music Server & DAC, \$3,500

Margules SF-220, 30th Anniversary LTD Tube Preamplifier, \$8,000

Margules U-280 SC, 30th Anniversary LTD Tube Amp, \$12,000

#### Loudspeakers:

Margules Orpheo Century Intermezzo Speakers, \$30,000/pair

#### Ancillaries And Cables

Quadraspire SVT, 5 Shelf Rack, \$3,300

VIABLUe NF-SS, T8 DIN/RCA, 150 cm, \$1,019

VIABLUe X60 power Cable 2m, \$1,124

VIABLUe SC.6 Speaker cables 3m pair, \$2,124

VIABLUe NF S6 Air Interconnect RCA cables 1m pair, \$1,070

VIABLUe E87 Silver Ethernet cable 3m, \$312





The sound generated in this room was beyond merely natural and engaging, it was seductive. Listening to LP tracks like "Tattoo," from Janice Ian's milestone record, *Breaking Silence*, was delivered with remarkable detail and definition, realistic space and scale, and leaden with engaging and honest timbre and texture.

Listening to "The Man With Glasses," from the Jane Ira Bloom LP, *Mighty Lights*, delivered the shimmer and sparkle of the piano with an ease and composure that was enchanting. The system delivered excellent extension at both extremes, lucid, detailed, and honestly sized soundstaging and imaging, and a markedly neutral tonal balance, with good texture and scaling. As well as the very similar product lineup exhibited at last November's Capital Audiofest had performed, here, this system was breathing life into any decent recording it was offered. What a captivating system...