



I began the day in Halle 1, listening to Grandinote electronics and loudspeakers in one of the many freestanding "room units" at Munich High End. Here, a Grandinote Volta server (8000 Euros) fed a Grandinote Shinai integrated amplifier (12,000 Euros), which in turn drove a pair of Grandinote Mach Nine loudspeakers (30,000 Euros/pair), with all Luna cabling.

The Grandinote gear almost ruined me: Although I heard other good-sounding systems on Friday, few were as musical or emotionally powerful as this one. I sat down just as the people running the dem put on the Weavers' famous live version of "Guantanamera": the playback quality was exquisite—musical, emotionally powerful, and sneakily dynamic, without apparent flaw. Pete Seeger, a man whose sanctimony kept me from fully enjoying his music as the years went by, was in youthful fine voice here, and the instrumental accompaniment was tactile and just plain real-sounding. On the next selection, the late Sandy Denny sounded similarly real and no less emotionally powerful: I was starting to cry, and it was only 10:30 in the morning!