

# What I Think About Iron Ring

## 1. Why Create a Hybrid In-Ear Monitor?

Back in what I like to call the “3210 Three Musketeer Era”(ES3, 2X-s, UE 10Pro), custom in-ear monitors were where near as popular or as successful as they are today. Since my first experience with a hybrid unit, the 5EB, I knew I wanted to build upon and improve it, as I found it’s sound and timbre to be truly unique and special.

Following the success of the Miracle and it’s high ratings from Head-Fi, I began to ponder more seriously on how I can create an excellent product using a hybrid design, as I knew that the hybrid design would bring a listening experience unlike any product using just balanced armature drivers.

When our first hybrid, the Merlin, was finally released, it quickly became a hotly discussed product across many different forums.

Fast forward to today, the custom in-ear market is in full bloom and there’s no shortage of brands to choose from. However, most companies still rely on balanced armature drivers for their products. While many have modified or customized the balanced armature drivers to some extent, the products are still somewhat limited by the availability of units from manufacturers such as Sonion or Knowles.

2. It’s often said that hybrid units will have phase or crossover issues, and are not a design that can be used to create a truly

high-end product. In fact, it's been told to me by many of my friends and colleagues as well. However, that's really not in the spirit of Unique Melody. UM continued extensive research and exploration of the possibilities of hybrid units – from the design of the shell to the interactions between each independent sound tube, and everything in between. Naturally, each unit we've released have been modified and adjusted numerous times before release.

The Maverick is a great example of our efforts coming to fruition. In order to create a more expansive and natural sound, we forgone a full BA design for a hybrid design that utilizes a unique crossover design to make the transition between the two driver designs more seamless.

After extensive discussion with Mixwave, we also chose to have a fairly unique dual-venting design that helped further elevate the overall sound quality of the product.

3. We will always continue to strive for further improvements of our products, so that we can continue to provide our' supporters and fan base with a truly "Unique Melody.

UM| Sam Zou – Chief Engineer