

GENELEC®

CASE STUDY

Sound Mind

PENTANGLE STUDIO
BUILDS A 7.1.4
ENVIRONMENT DESIGNED
FOR SPATIAL PRECISION
AND CREATIVE FREEDOM



Masahito Tobisawa, Founder of Pentangle Studio.



WITH GENELEC SMART ACTIVE MONITORS AND GLM AT ITS CORE, THE STUDIO MERGES IMMERSIVE CLARITY WITH INTUITIVE CONTROL



Immersive audio is rapidly redefining the way we experience sound — not just as listeners, but as creators. The shift from fixed stereo perspectives to multi-dimensional soundfields invites new ways of thinking, composing, and hearing. At the forefront of this transformation is Tokyo's [Pentangle Studio](#), where veteran engineer Masahito Tobisawa has rebuilt his entire monitoring environment to support a future centred on

spatial audio. With integrated 7.1.4 and stereo setups, Tobisawa's approach blends innovation with instinct, using immersive tools not for spectacle, but for subtlety, emotion and control.

Tobisawa began his career in the early 1980s and founded Pentangle Studio in 2017 as a space to both mix and explore. He had long imagined extending the relative distance and focus

” SWITCHING WITH A SINGLE ACTION KEEPS THE CREATIVE FLOW ALIVE.

achieved in L-R mixing into three dimensions. “As a recording engineer, I’d built a framework around stereo imaging. But I began to see how those techniques could be applied to spatial sound and I’ve always believed that if you can imagine it, you can make it happen.”

When the tools he needed didn’t exist, Tobisawa started developing them himself. His pioneering mixing approach, which uses phase shifts to create three-dimensionality in headphones, became the basis for 8Way Reflection — a format that evolved into the 8Way Audio engine, now implemented in Sharp smartphones via a partnership with the Neos Corporation.

With interest in immersive formats surging thanks to platforms like Apple Music and Sony 360 Reality Audio, Tobisawa saw the need for a system that could match his creative ambitions — so he installed a new 7.1.4 monitoring setup based on eleven Genelec 8330A monitors and a 7350A subwoofer, adding a pair of 8341As for stereo monitoring. “In the early 2000s, I didn’t have a good impression of powered monitors. Many sounded hyped or artificial. But over time, I noticed Genelec sounding more natural — especially when I tried the 8020. It changed my thinking completely.”

Initially considering a Genelec Smart IP PoE loudspeaker system, Tobisawa ultimately chose a



” I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED FINE – UNTIL GLM SHOWED ME WHAT I WAS MISSING.

multi-channel Smart Active Monitoring system for its flexibility and streamlined integration. “It came with everything I needed — and it was cost-effective too. That made it possible to think about stereo as part of the same ecosystem.” After trialling the 8341A, the choice became obvious. “The sound just landed perfectly. Even though my old passive monitors were good, this felt like a direct line to the sound I had in mind.”

To unify stereo and immersive workflows, Tobisawa brought in the 9320A Reference Controller, enabling instant switching between monitoring paths. “Switching with a single action keeps the creative flow alive. Before, when I had to stop and

adjust things, I’d lose the feel of the mix. This setup lets me move without hesitation.” He also noted the practical benefit of speaker muting when using headphones. “It’s a subtle but crucial detail. If the speakers are still active, your body responds to them — and that affects your perception.”

Critical to the upgrade was the use of GLM software, which handled alignment and calibration across the entire space. With some rear and height monitors wall-mounted instead of placed in ideal symmetrical positions, GLM’s ability to adjust phase, level and delay was essential. “I thought it sounded fine before calibration. But when I looked at the graph, I was shocked. The response was



jagged, and each speaker behaved differently, depending on where it was positioned in the room. I had no idea how uneven it was until I measured it.”

After careful tuning, Tobisawa found himself hearing the immersive field in a new way. “When everything is aligned, you don’t really notice the height or rear channels — they just blend. That’s how immersive sound should be. It’s not about spotlighting effects, it’s about a natural sense of space.”

The final piece of the jigsaw was the 9301B AES/

EBU Multichannel Interface, allowing for easy integration of the 7350A subwoofer and fully digital signal routing across the system. “I’ve always used analogue, but I did a comparison and found no perceptual difference. Plus, the digital setup is cleaner and easier to manage in a compact studio like this.”

Now working across stereo, immersive and headphones with a single integrated system, Tobisawa feels more creatively empowered than ever. “It’s exciting. I’m building sound in different dimensions, and everything flows — I can already see how this will shape my next ideas.”



KIT LIST

- 11 x 8330A
- 2 x 8341A
- 1 x 7350A
- 1 x 9301B
- 1 x 9320A
- 1 x GLM Calibration Kit

GENELEC OY OLIVITIE 5 | 74100 | IISALMI, FINLAND | TEL. +358 17 83881 | GENELEC@GENELEC.COM | WWW.GENELEC.COM