



Onix Audio

Onix Audio was a trading name of a partnership formed in 1984 to manufacture a range of hi fidelity amplifiers, tuners and accessories in the UK.

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ONIX AUDIO OA21 & Soap 1984

History [edit]

The first ONIX branded amplifier with the name ONIX on the front panel the company produced was the ONIX AUDIO OA-20 in 1984 less than 10 units were made and none were sold . This being the collaboration of all three partners Adam Worsfold , & Tony Brady with Craig Hill selling the units in his fathers shop .In 1985 when Adam Worsfold was now the sole owner the company progressed with break neck speed after the OA-21 was added, this model having a **pre-amplifier** sub board with similar characteristics as the company promoted . ONIX then introduction a **moving coil** (MC) and **moving magnet** (MM) alternate board change option.^[1] In addition the OA-21 was fitted with a supply connector on the back that accepted the power supply option called a SOAP (Special Onix Audio Power) introduced by Onix in 1985. With the success of the OA-21 amplifier and the OA-20, Onix Audio released an improved OA-20 called the OA-22 that included two **CD** inputs to allow for the wave of high output **CD players** typical of the time. Onix Audio continuing to develop and evolve adding a **FM tuner** (radio), called the BWD-1 in 1987. The Onix BWD-1 provided musical integrity, and quality performance never seen in a tuner with an ability to prevent "drifting of stations " .^[2] Onix Audio continued to upgrade their **product lines** and developed a new dedicated pre-amp called the OA-24 in 1989. In the same year a new updated version of the power supply SOAP 2 and other models including the OA21s that had electronic speaker short protection were introduced.^[3] In 1990, the OA-401/40 watt and the OA-601/60 watt stereo amplifiers were added to the product range. Onix Audio is now **OA21 Ltd** in the UK .

1990-1997 [edit]

In late 1990, the trading activities of ONIX AUDIO now 100% owned by Adam Worsfold were sold to a newly created limited company called OEL Ltd. Adam Worsfold retained a controlling interest of a 65% with Mr Micheal O Brien owner of Swisstone Electronics Ltd holding 35% of OEL Ltd. The new company becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Swisstone Electronics Ltd, this after Adam Worsfold sold his shares in July 1991 to M O'Brien of Swisstone Limited. OEL Ltd changed its name to Kendal Electronics Ltd in January 1997 a move to preserve the reputation of OEL Ltd ,^[4] . Kendal Electronics Ltd was then closed in February 1997 after a loss of market share and distributors world wide.

1997-2016 [edit]

After 1997 the Chinese company Shanling Digital Technology, used the UK brand name ONIX . A UK trade mark registered in 1988 ^[5] by Adam Worsfold , this trade mark was used by Shanling but was not actually owned by them, when Shanling of China used it and as such was not authorized for them to use . This was later proven in the UK courts when an action to rectify the register was concluded ^[6] While Shanling used the brand they did not use any of the original designs or any of the foundation methods of the original company, and were typically making and marketing generic Chinese branded product^[7] using "ONIX" just as a printed name on the front these products. None of the original design criteria or integrity of the original brand was built in and must be consider just OEM type products . In 2010 Adam Worsfold the original owner of the trade mark ONIX, filed a trademark rectification action against Shanling for illegal assignment in the UK . This action was successful on November 5 2014 in the high court of London ^[8], the action to rectify the register back to the original owner was then carried out by the UK Trade Mark Office . In 2014 **OA21** released a new product range under the brands ONIX .^[9] , **DNA** and **OA21**.

References [edit]

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- ↑ High Fidelity, April 1991.
- ↑ Vintage Audio Bliss, March 2010.
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- ↑ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generic_brand
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- ↑ https://www.pnewswire.com/news-releases/uk-ip-courts-pass-judgment-on-onix-trademark-confusion-554605291.html

External links [edit]

- HIFI Answers,Audiofile Magazine *Review HI Answers 2017* ↗
- UK Intellectual Property Courts PDF Outcome **ONIX TRADE MARK 2014** ↗

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