

AudioControl®

Making Good Sound Great™

CASE STUDY

AudioControl Brings Life to Landscape Audio System



AudioControl Director M Series 4800 (top) and 6800

AudioControl®
Making Good Sound Great™

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July 28, 2020 frayednot—never left stranded® case study featuring AudioControl Director M Series amplifiers

www.frayednot.net

FRAYEDNOT

frayednot—never left stranded® is an audio/video/smart home sales and integration firm that was founded in 2012 by Constantinos Sandoukas in Cranford, New Jersey. For Mr. Sandoukas, both high-performance audio and fine craftsmanship

have been longstanding passions, so after becoming involved with car audio and then computers and networking, he settled into steady employment with a home technology firm in 2004. "I was working with all of this amazing A/V equipment and right away I knew that this is what I wanted to do with my life," Constantinos explained cheerfully by telephone.

He went out on his own some years later, founding frayednot—never left stranded® to deliver intelligent home technology solutions to a growing base of clients in New Jersey.

BUILDING A DEMO SYSTEM

After recognizing the market potential for high-performance landscape audio systems, Constantinos decided to outfit his personal home with a package that he could demonstrate for his clients. "I had already seen quite clearly that consumers have pretty significant misconceptions about what landscape audio is all about, and what the potential is for great sound." This motivated Constantinos to design a demo system for his backyard area including an upper and lower patio—and he set about acquiring some landscape audio components including four purpose-built Origin Audio Bollards that include 360-degrees of sound output and a subterranean woofer system. He drove the outdoor speakers with a standard multi-channel amplifier, connected everything before sitting down for a listen. "Even with some DSP adjustments, the sound I was getting was Okay at best—it just wasn't the inspirational presentation I was expecting." After making sure that everything was wired properly, Constantinos, suspecting instinctually that these speakers were capable of far better sound, decided to try an alternative amplifier.



The frayednot—never left stranded® equipment rack front view



Landscape loudspeakers evenly present beautiful sound throughout the area

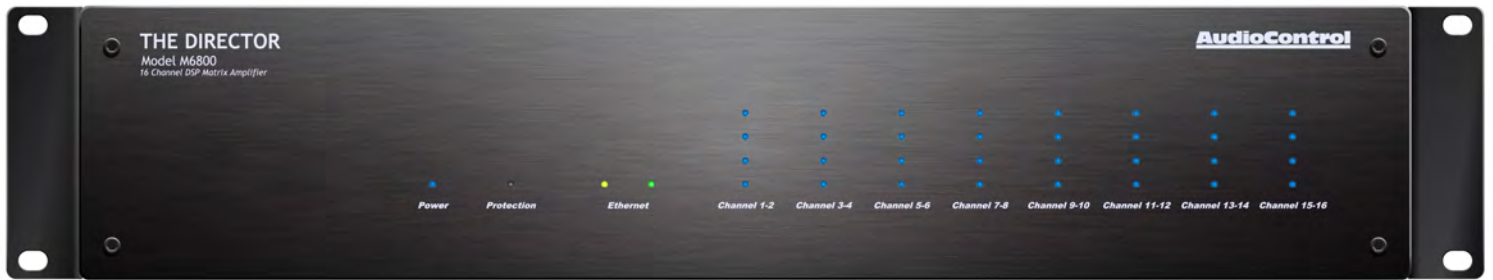
THE AUDIOCONTROL DIRECTOR M4800: “WOW, I WANT THIS!”

“The first thing I did was place a call to my outstanding rep, Mark Boecker from The New York Marketing Team, who represents AudioControl in my region. Having Mark in my corner has been pure gold, he has been very helpful to me and my business over the years.” After some lengthy conversations about what could be done with the bollards in theory, Boecker suggested that Constantinos try the 4-zone (8-channel) AudioControl Director M4800 matrix amplifier, delivering 200 watts per channel from a 1U chassis into the 4-ohm Origin system. Rack space is always a consideration, so a 1U solution seemed like an ideal choice. The M4800 also provided Constantinos with the ability to assign channels to specific speakers via the matrix and access AudioControl’s award-winning DSP engine for crossover settings, graphic and parametric EQ adjustments that enable precise system tuning. Once he had everything connected, Constantinos fired up the system and was absolutely blown



away. “The music immediately came to life once I swapped amplifiers, routed audio and set my crossover points—this AudioControl M4800 sounds so great—the detail and dimensionality is off the charts—now this is a landscape system!” Since the installation, Constantinos has demonstrated the system for his clients, and their reaction is always the same; “Wow, I want this!”

Since completing the amplifier swap and hearing such improvement in the system, Constantinos ordered another AudioControl amplifier—the Director M6800, which is 8-zones (16-channels) from a 2U chassis to run the distributed audio



The AudioControl Director M 6800 16-channel matrix amplifier

alongside the M4800 throughout his home. The M6800 also has a line output for his subwoofers, which he uses in three zones. The source for the systems is Sonos for all zones (Outdoor, Screened Porch, Family Room, Loft, Kitchen/Dinette and the 2nd floor Bed/Bath) and now the two AudioControl M-Series amplifiers have become the foundation for the entire entertainment system. Speakers throughout the home are Origin and Bang & Olufsen architectural. Constantinos also uses Josh.ai voice control and Lutron lighting in his smart home installation.

"I don't think I was expecting the huge jump in sound quality that I got by upgrading to AudioControl amplifiers, first for my landscape system and then throughout the home," Constantinos stated. "And the support services from those guys in Seattle is first class. I could not be more thrilled with these M-Series amplifiers in terms of performance and features."

[Image Gallery](#)



Access to the backside of the neatly adorned equipment rack