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EL34 Parallel Push-pull Hybrid Vacuum Tube Amplifier Super robust, muscular and well defined sound

As reviewed by Mr. Osamu Takatsu

Aurorasound is an audio manufacturer; rather it is a lab, located in Yokohama Japan, established in 2010. The company has been engaged in development and sales of home audio product along with imports of electronic components. As for the amplifier lineup, Aurorasound develops and markets uniquely designed high-end product such as phono equalizer amplifier, pre-amplifier and headphone amplifier, which contributed the company to establish an engineering identity. The new PADA is placed on top of the lineup and it is recognized as the principal power amplifier.

As you can see, it is a vacuum tube power amplifier. PADA uses reproduced Telefunken-branded EL34 (made in Slovakia) in parallel push-pull configuration, which is different from a conventional tube amplifier. The voltage gain stage is of discrete solid-state circuit. By placing an inter-stage transformer the power amplifier stage is completely separated. The input selector between balanced/unbalanced is logically designed. In addition, absolutely no NFB is employed in the final stage circuit design. The parallel use of EL34 in a triode-configured operation optimizes the internal impedance while assuring necessary damping-factor. PADA's hybrid design is indeed filled with much originality.

Publicized output power is 43W x 2 (at 8 ohm load) and it is perhaps the maximum power output from EL34, however, the concept and target of PADA differs completely from other amplifiers which are simply pursuing high power. In addition, as it adopted a self-bias solution, you can use your vintage, yet precious EL34 comfortably with confidence. Further, PADA can accept higher power tube KT150, however, in this case no parallel use is feasible, hence limiting to single push-pull output.

At any rate, as its size is not small, one may expect tube-like bursting sound, however, it has no eccentric sound at all. PADA can be described as robust and muscular putting some meat on the bones of the presentation. It is a classic and orthodox amplifier delivering firm and faithful reproduction of the original sound. The difference between balanced and unbalanced input is minute. It delivers the same characteristic of PADA. The most attractive characteristic is well polished sound out of old analog sources.

