

Transformer coupled hybrid power amplifier with no NFB to eliminate influence of inverse EMF(electromotive force) from Speakers. Wide-range and acoustic richness with polished sound Fulfilled with Musical instruments' real presence, coupled with vivid expression of vocal

AS reviewed by Mr. Kan-ichi Shinoda

PADA is a new model from Aurorasound. It is a hybrid power amplifier. As you know, design concept of a hybrid amplifier is to take advantages of positives of vacuum tube and solid state. PADA has low-noise, low distortion, yet having wide frequency range. PADA has an input with discrete transistors, and output is of a triode-configured EL34/6CA7 push-pull structure.

It should be noteworthy that the input stage and the final output stage are coupled with an inter-stage transformer, which uses Fine-Met-core, manufactured by Noguchi who puts the highest priority on sound quality without any compromises. The output transformer for the final stage and chalk transformer in the power supply do not have enclosures. Their open design transformers are unique with high quality, manufactured by world famous Lundahl in Sweden. According to Aurorasound, independent two power supplies are used for the input and output stages separately in order to prevent any interactive interference to achieve the highest sound quality.

It should also be noted that the circuit design employs no NFB in order to avoid any influences from the speakers' inverse EMF(electromotive force). The input has balanced and unbalanced terminals each. The output tubes can be replaced with vintage ones with no adjustment what's so ever. You can also enjoy replacing EL34 with high-power output tubes KT150. In this case, however, no parallel push-pull is feasible as KT150 will work as triode operation.

At first, I used unbalanced input for my listening evaluation. Due to its triode configuration the sound was extremely smooth and with delicate details in the entire wide frequency range. It delivered sharp and clear sound without strange stickiness. In short, the sound was smart and personable. I believe this is attributable to deriving the positive characteristic of EL34 with synergy of solid-state input circuit and transformer coupled construction.

When an orchestra source was played, PADA filled the entire space with large-scale reproduction of sound. The definition of each musical instrument was excellent by vividly illustrating the original source. Also, on a chamber music, the refined strings and piano blended beautifully delivering high caliber ensemble sound. PADA revealed the female vocal's stylings and it enabled visualizing its texture and even emotional ups and downs lively.

I have evaluated using balanced input, however, preamplifier, Air-tight ATE2 has only unbalanced output terminal. Therefore, a direct connection was tried with SACD which has balanced output and volume control. Immediately, I noted quieting of the sound. It was quiet to begin with, but it even improved quiescent and transparency. Accordingly, I got an impression that both musical instrument and vocal became clearer resulting in acoustically more fulfilling and richer.

