

Test SDA 2175 on audiophile.no 6.March 2004

By Stian Gårdsvoll

“After a few days with the SDA 2175 I am left with the impression that it does absolutely nothing wrong! It does everything exactly right to my ears.”

“The sound of digital amplifiers

All digital amplifiers that I have listened to so far have had approximately the same sound character: Very tight and orderly bass, high resolution in the midrange, but a slightly annoying treble which appeared grainy. The honorable exception was the TacT Millennium, but this at such a high price that it falls outside my normal range. With the SDA 2175 digital amplification has removed the last of my complaints: the slightly annoying and grainy treble. Because this is really silky sweet!

The bass is deep but tight. The extremely controlled bass reproduction can by some be mistaken for a lack of the deepest bass, but this is a bit of a perceptual deception. Other power amps (such as EC AW 180) provides a soft and fat bass, but the TacT gives a whole new meaning to Tympanis. Tight and short beats are produced like they should, according to my ears and to my taste. Compared to my reference Parasound Halo A21 it did not have quite the same weight in the 70-150 Hz region, a range which gives extra push in the bass. This is a matter of taste. For me, being a fan of U2, Pink Floyd and Eagles it is a positive effect. But not everyone likes the extra weight the A21 gives. For them the SDA 2175 will likely be a better choice.

The Midrange is probably the most prominent strength of this amplifier both when you compare to conventional amplifiers and to other digital amplifiers. Eric Claptons 50 year old Martin guitar, which he used in MTV Unplugged, really shines! The crispness and the beautiful fundamentals are really there! The FST midrange on the B&W 803 gets a god match. Diana Kralls piano on “Live in Paris” and the brush on the cymbals is so grandly reproduced that it surpasses my Parasound Halo A21 with an embarrassing margin.

The slightly aggressive treble and hard upper midrange which characterized early digital amplifiers was not present. Instead it delivers a extremely detailed and smooth treble. In no way softened - but nice.”

“For a noise freak like myself it was a delight to hear the black background for the music. There was not a trace of noise.”

“I tried hard, for days, to find negative aspects of this power amplifier – as I do with all other products. The only thing I can say is that it is slightly without “personality”. It has no character except that it does everything right. And if you want a true reproduction and prefer to let other components do the coloration then the TacT SDA2175 has to be considered.”