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3020 IN SERBIAN

SMALL AMPLIFIER FROM SABAC AS A SHOCK THERAPY FOR SPOILED "STARS",

Ampino. The name already alludes to a small amplifier. You will certainly ask yourself: how small? Is it possible to make really small amplifier which costs as the cheapest on our market, which are made with all power of technology and knowledge of foreign companies and cordial help of Chinese manpower? Dayens surprised us once again. Completely without announcement, we have received first produced copy of their new integrated amplifier Dayens Ampino. The answer on the question above you will find in this text.

DESIGN AND MECHANICAL PRODUCTION

Enclosure of the device is made from plastic covered steel profiles, of very good production quality, with very nice processed edges. The front side of amplifier is made of beautiful acryl in piano polish finish, pedantically made and makes impression that Ampino is more expensive than it is. There are four antivibration damping feet on the bottom of the enclosure.

We like the fact that Dayens listen to the market: small companies have great advantage in that – fast adaptability, which seems to be a problem for big companies. You can see metal power switch on Ampino – it is not the plastic one, which was criticized before. The same one is used for selection of active source of sound, and on the bottom of the front mask there is led, which gives information if the amplifier is turned on. Volume control knob is made of aluminum and attached to axle with a screw. This amplifier doesn't have remote control unit, phones jack, phono-section or tape output. There are only two inputs with gold-plated connectors and one pair of massive, completely metal, gold-plated loudspeaker terminals, of much higher quality

than you can find on commercial class devices. Power connection is made according to IEC standard, and it is praiseworthy that with this amplifier you receive very good quality power cord. We must remind you that almost every manufacturer, no matter how expensive they are, deliver the lowest quality cords with their devices. In contrast to them Ampino has very good domestic, export quality, copper cables with robust bakelite power connector.

Considering imperfections, we must keep in mind that that this is prototype of the device. Small vertical clearance which exists on axle of potentiometer, or backside which is bending on the top when you are pushing power cord powerfully, are details for which the manufacturer claims that they will be corrected when the official production of Ampino begins. However, these imperfections are really minor ones regarding the amplifier as a whole.

FUNCTIONALITY

For functional side everything is simplified: potentiometer for amplifying, left switch for turning on, right for selection of source. You will learn to in a minute use this amplifier, and it has high so-called WAF (wife acceptance factor), because your wife will almost surely like the design and simplicity of use.

“Trust in your hearing and your heart and you should try to listen little Ampino as soon as possible. If you don't do this you will miss an important part of domestic HiFi history.”

You can choose between two outputs, declared for CD and tuner. Fans of good sound, the ones that have more components, won't like this, but there is other side of the medal: many users today have only basic

components in their systems. Once there were gramophone, tuner and amplifier, while wealthier users also had a tape recorder (magnetophon). Today we have CD player instead of gramophone. Sometimes, an additional component means more care and strike on our budget, and this can be felt especially in the price class of Ampino. Attaching loudspeaker cables is excellently solved, even if you have robust connectors because terminals are separated well enough. It needs to mention that amplifier does not have circuit for time delay. The fact is that a dull sound from the loudspeakers wasn't present on turning on, but it is present if you turn off amplifier and immediately turn it on – reason for this are so-called transitional appearances in power supplying.

TEHNIICAL DESCRIPTION

Small box of Ampino is, in contrast to new trend of massive half-empty devices, completely filled with electronics. Declared power is 2x25W/80Ohm, which points that it should be collated with sensitive speakers. Construction is partially dual-mono, with two clearly separated power modules, which share same toroidal transformer made by well known domestic company Trafomatic, wind up by Dayens specification. Bridge rectifier is made from diodes, which are

followed with two electrolytic capacitors of 4700uF. They came from British company LCR and they are respected components on amplifier parts market. Input selection is realized with relay, which is an excellent



solution, until now almost unreachable in this class, and potentiometer for volume control is ALPS. The device actually uses passive preamplifier: signal from connectors goes to relay, and then to potentiometer and after that directly to output power amplifier. Quality is present everywhere: ELNA electrolytes, metal-film resistors. Mundorf iswg105 is used for internal wiring, which is silver wire supplemented with small percent of gold. Input capacitor type MCAP and loudspeaker terminals are also from the same company. Complementary pair of Toshiba bipolar transistors 2SA1943/2SC5200 are used as output transistors, and their characteristics are surpassing the size of amplifier. We are really surprised with high quality of built-in components, which is almost unreachable for this class of devices. We hope that the producer will maintain the same level of quality when the official production begins.

THE SOUND

Disregarding all the technology and components used to make this amplifier, the sound test is the most authoritative in giving the last remark of the quality of this amplifier. We have tested small Ampino on Jamo D830 and Canton Karat M 40 loudspeakers using Oehlbach RattleSnake and Van Den Hull 122 loudspeaker cables.

Interconnects were Oehlbach NF214 and the cheaper Neotech, and as a source we have used California Audio Lab Delta and Alpha transport. Considering that almost all components in line exceeded the class in which Ampino belongs, we have tested it with very cheap 13 years old CD player, gently modified NAD 501.

What is the sound like? In one word: amazing! When we are testing basic models from manufacturer, we expect classical defects of that category. Those defects often appear

as very blurred or terribly hard, shallow bass, with high tones without details which sizzle's or they are also blurred. There is often prempathic or synthetic middle range present, which results in comic comprehension of sound by listeners. The last result of that is a masochistic paradox, because a listener hears unnatural, irritating sounds, and convinces himself that this is the thing in which he should enjoy, because he gave a lot of money to buy those components.

We must be honest; we could not find any of this in Ampino. Bass is exceptionally voluminous, clear and goes deep, scene is defined, sound is warm, soft, balanced (melodious, harmonious, (coherent). High tones are missing a little bit of information, but that is the amplifier characteristic: some details are not present, but present details have exceptional precision and warmth and nothing can be held against them. Vocals and complete middle range marvelously fit into the scene. Dynamic is completely correct.

We must say that you can forget imperfections of sound which we have found at Ampino because we have compared it with the sound of devices which cost from seven to fourteen times more than Dayen's amplifier. We know that our claim sounds incredible, but it won't be professional if we don't admit that we tortured Ampino cruelly. However, completely unexpected, it didn't stumble. We don't know how the manufacturer managed to do all this for the price that is published, but the fact is that they managed to do it.

CONCLUSION

We are always trying that professional approach is the core of every our article. Anyway, it is very hard to restrain expressively positive emotions when we are talking about this kind of a product. Ampino is a small pearl, in

the true meaning of that word. Because of that we decided to name this text "3020 in Serbian" to allude on famous NAD's amplifier from the last century that changed relations of power on world's HiFi scene. This is first true audiophile amplifier that could make us ask ourselves is it worth buying even secondhand products?

We ask you not to believe in our words. Instead, you should only trust in your hearing and your heart and you should try to listen little Ampino as soon as possible. If you don't do this you will miss an important part of domestic HiFi history. Do not allow yourself to be sorry after, because if you are looking to your first amplifier or if you are not looking for absolute High-End, Ampino can be strong link in your system.

And for what money!

» CHARACTERISTICS

PLUS

- ▲ Sound, sound, sound!
- ▲ Details, clear, dynamic and natural music experience.
- ▲ Great volume and extension of bass.
- ▲ Excellent vocals and high range.
- ▲ Components unimaginative for this class.
- ▲ Extraordinary price for quality ratio.

MINUS

- ▼ No time delay circuit
- ▼ Few mechanical defects on the tested prototype

Ampino

- ▶ Power Output: 2x25W / 8 Ohm
- ▶ Frequency Response: 1 Hz – 200 kHz
- ▶ S/N ratio: >100 dB
- ▶ Line input: 2
- ▶ Speaker output: 1
- ▶ Dimension: 150x285x90 mm
- ▶ Weight: 3.7 kg
- ▶ Price: 220 euro

Note: Check the price before buying.

» Dayens, +381 (0)15 345-369