

Grand Prix 2020 Award: Aurorasound PADA-300B

A Masterpiece Hybrid Power Amplifier born from a high-end boutique works.



Mr. Miura: Aurorasound, a privately owned high-end Japanese boutique lab, won the Stereo Sound Grand Prize.

Mr. Yanagisawa: This maker has developed very unique products for which Grand Prize was nominated several times. The new product, PADA-300B Power Amplifier, has surpassed a higher plateau making it a great model.

Mr. Onodera: PADA-300B gave me the highest impression with pleasant surprise amongst other new products that I listened to this year. I felt as if many years of countless efforts finally bear fruit.

Mr. Miura: Aurorasound also offers another power amplifier PADA-EL34, which uses the vacuum tube EL34 for output stage.

Mr. Fuu: The hybrid circuit structure consisted of vacuum tubes for output stage and semiconductors for frontend stage, and the two stages were coupled with a transformer. Usually, a hybrid structure uses semiconductor for the final stage and vacuum tubes for frontend to add unique flavor of sound that vacuum tubes generate. Aurorasound reversed this traditional structure which is the most unique characteristics of this product.

Mr. Miura: The basic structure of PADA-300B uses the same structure as the previous model. In this respect, you can say that Aurorasound's design concept is consistent with the company's sound philosophy.

Mr. Fuu: This time, PADA-300B uses the well-known 300Bs vacuum tubes in a push-pull configuration in order to achieve higher output power to overcome the listeners' feeling for lack of power.

Mr. Yanagisawa: In Japan, 300B is somewhat deified and its usage is usually inclined in single-use, not in push-pull, in order to promote the tubes natural characteristics. However, the usage of Aurorasound is different.

Mr. Fuu: It properly pursued sound characteristics, as well. It achieves good power output while distortion is cancelled with use of push-pull configuration. The frontend stage with semiconductor also contributes to reduction of distortion. Moreover, it has no negative feedback loop, takes advantage of a transformer, all contributing to accurate description of sound nuance. No one can copy the unique real-like sound.

Mr. Onodera: Commonly accepted thinking, such as it is 300B, transformer coupled, good sound is vital, thus power and characteristics are secondary, is not the concept of this product. Yet, it is not focusing on the characteristics only. This product reflects its super balance of all aspects.

Mr. Yanagisawa: As a result, it delivers enough power demolishing normal power preconception. It also delivers very tasty sound.

Mr. Wada: It has sharpness with transparency. I was stunningly surprised with its sound.

Mr. Miura: It is a great power amplifier having freshness with enough power to drive speakers.

Mr. Onodera: I do not get bored by listening with this amplifier as it delivers detailed nuance of sound.

Mr. Fuu: Indeed this amplifier produces very pleasant sound.

By: Isao Yanagisawa, Koji Onodera, Takahito Miura, Nobuyuki Fuu, Hiromi Wada at Stereo Sound Magazine conference room.