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INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

# JADIS ELECTRONICS I30

Estève Fabry

At the time of writing, the prestigious company Jadis will celebrate its 40 years of existence. Like all the productions of the brand, the I300 is aimed at the audiophiles who love the warmth of the tube sound «à la Jadis», a unique sound flavor. In order to respect the convictions of the most purist among them, this amplifier constitutes a true return to the sources. A choice that militates for simplicity in tube systems using one of the most iconic tubes, the famous 300B power triode. To equip its amplifier, Jadis has chosen the 300B produced by Electro Harmonix for the quality of the sound they allow to obtain and their reliability.

VUMETRE / 54

## JADIS ELECTRONICS | 300



ORIGIN

France

PRICE

€ 13.500

DIMENSIONS

400 x 255 x 400 mm

WEIGHT

30 kg

POWER

2 x 10 watts in pure class A

BANDWIDTH

20 Hz to 55 kHz

INPUT SENSITIVITY

100 mV

TUBES

4 x 300B, 2 x 6SN7, 3 x ECC82

Automatic bias

However, if the musicality that this tube gives to the amplifier is universally recognized, getting the best out of it and allowing it to express itself fully implies certain constraints. Indeed, the 300B triode is a direct heated tube. Let's remember that most tubes have an indirect heating. That is to say that their filament is placed inside a small metal cylinder which it heats, and which constitutes the cathode. On the 300B, this cylinder is absent. It is the filament itself which also acts as a cathode. A specificity which implies that the whole of the circuits of supply of the lamp can deliver a very clean voltage, free of fluctuations or carriers of parasites. To meet the simplicity requirement desired by purists, the I300 is designed around a simple push-pull of 300B without feed-back. It must therefore meet the power supply requirements imposed by these valves to benefit from all their musicality and the emotion of listening they can offer. Thus, in addition to the fact that each stage has its own power supply, a particular care was brought to that of the 300B themselves. For this, the I300 has no less than seven separate power supply circuits. The heart of this power supply is based, as for all Jadis devices, on a transformer designed and manufactured in situ in the brand's workshop. It uses an EI M6X magnetic circuit of a design that gives it a stable operation, without noise and with a reduced heating.

To drive the 300B, the preamplification stages use an ECC82 followed, after phase shifting the signal by a Schmitt phase shifter, by 6SN7 triodes which deliver a sufficient signal to make them work in optimal conditions. Here comes another key element in the behavior and temperament of any amplifier with tubes, namely the output transformer. This element, again entirely designed and manufactured in-house by Jadis, uses a double CV38 magnetic circuit built to Jadis' own standards. The I300 is the only integrated system equipped with such output transformers. All these specificities make the I300 seem much more powerful than the 10 watts per channel it actually delivers. Finally, Jadis attaches particular importance to the realization and wiring of its productions. The I300 is no exception to this tradi-



55 / VUMETRE



tion. It benefits from the rules and manual techniques of hard wiring, coming from the world of high frequency electronics, which allow the devices produced by Jadis to express themselves fully and to sign the sound aesthetics of the brand.

Moreover, each product is subjected to a rigorous series of tests and controls carried out throughout their assembly by highly qualified technicians. They can supervise the entire manufacturing process, while bringing specific technical skills to each of them. Thus, all stages of assembly are subject to precise checks using the most advanced technologies. Any product showing even the slightest defect during a test phase is immediately withdrawn from the production line.

Finally, as far as its design is concerned, the

I300 remains faithful to the Jadis spirit and has sober, elegant lines that honor the tubes that make up its soul.

#### THE SET UP

With a square footprint of 40 cm on each side, this integrated amp is not that imposing. On the other hand, it weighs 30 kg, which means that it needs an extremely rigid and stable support. If you wish, you can have a custom-made wooden shelf made thick enough. We have connected this amp to several speakers quite different, even with not necessarily very favorable outputs. Despite the 10 watts announced, the I300 was able to respond perfectly to the demand. We have always found that tube electronics provide a subjective power higher than the advertised one. This was confirmed in this case.

#### THE SOUND

As we have said several times, there is undeniably a magical side to the sound reproduction of Jadis amplifiers. And this is clearly not only a matter of tubes. It is true that tube circuits provide unique sensations: euphonic, spatial, warm and airy reproduction. We find all this when listening to the Jadis I300, but with this extra seduction that the manufacturer of Carcassonne knows how to distill for 40 years. We are lucky enough to have worked with the brand for many years now. We know that the magic of its sound waves is also explained by the excellence of its proprietary transformers. This very full and nervous side is not available to everyone. Far from it! On our ZU loudspeakers, which proudly display a sensitivity of 100 dB, the I300 goes for a walk. The sound stage is superbly vaporous and at the same time provides an extreme punctuality of the sources in space. The position of the musicians is instantly apparent. And the performance frame evolves from track to track, from record to record. It is never the same. On the other hand, it perfectly transcribes the atmosphere of the sound recording. On its speakers, the brightness is sublime. The coupling between the I300 and the Soul mk2

is remarkable. By switching to the Nel Extreme, we lose 10 points in sensitivity, but the amp does not disassemble at all. It keeps a very nice quality of tension on the bass lines. Moreover, in a general way, all the melodic lines are beautifully drawn by this amplifier. It certainly does not provide the quality of impact that a more classic transistorized electronic can boast. But it offers in exchange a variety of tonal and spectral balance of a striking beauty.

#### OUR CONCLUSION

Once again, the manufacturer from Carcassonne has hit the nail on the head. It was not necessarily obvious for him to take over the mythical 300 B. Its history is clearly more inhabited by the pentodes that it loves. But he has long kept a place of choice in his catalog for the 300 B and the 845. This latest interpretation on the theme of the power triode is a total success. This compact and dense amplifier provides a vibrant and hyper aerial sound that one can enjoy with immense greed. The musicality «à la Jadis» is always this mixture of fluidity and nervousness. Once again, history repeats itself for our greatest pleasure. ■

