

N° 208 - AVRIL/MAI 2015

haute fidélité



EXCLUSIF
LE PREMIER
BANC
D'ESSAI !

Devialet Phantom Silver

NOUVEAUTES

Serveur
QAT S3

Enceinte
**TAD Compact
Evolution One**

Ampli intégré
et lecteur de CD
Roksan K3

L 15813 - 208 - F: 5,80 € - RD



AND 5.50€ - DOM 6.90€ - BEL 6.50€ - CH 11FS - CAN 9.95\$CA - ESP/ITA/PORT. CONT 6,90€ - TOM/S 850CFP

BANC D'ESSAI LECTEUR CD



There are 2 CD players in the line of products of the French manufacturer. The first on is the Orphée 1 that will be reviewed in the following pages. This pleasant looking unit offers a traditional but highly musical recipe.

JADIS ORPHÉE 1 prodigy for music

We do not present Jadis, the French company born in 1983 which quickly made a worldwide reputation after its creation.

More than a myth:

Orphée was the son of King Thrace and Muse Calliope in the Greek mythology. He was a gifted lyre player and it is said

BANC D'ESSAI LECTEUR CD



that he invented the antic cithara. Good choice for a high fidelity source. This CD player integrates a mechanic, a converter with an USB input and an analog output. The chassis is made out of really thick grey metal. The massive front plate is made of aluminum and integrates a large display. The sliding tray is located on the top of the unit and the controls buttons are aligned in front of the said tray. The command line is display the Jadis "touch"

Technical specification:

Origin : France
Price : 13 500 EUR
Dimensions :
455x125x450mm
Weight : 17Kg
DAC : Recepter : CS8416
Conversion : AD1854 (24/96)
USB : PCM 2704
Line stage : ECC82 X2
Distortion : < 0.1%
Signal/Noise ratio : > 108dB
Digital Input : USB B (16/48)
Output : RCA / XLR /
S/PDIF(RCA)

reduce considerably vibration received by the optical lens. The internal converter is based on the AD1854 chip giving a definition up to 24/96 and its delta/sigma process reduces the quantification noise allowing little phase rotation. The USB section handles a definition up to 16/48. The analog output stage is composed of two double triode 12AU7 by channel in a symmetrical configuration and low impedance cathode output. The high current is regulated with one EL84 and one EL86. In total five transformers and eight regulators provide and stabilize the currents.



JADIS ORPHEE 1

Fabrication and listening:

Built: The Orphée1 shows the traditional Jadis polished golden plates. On this CD player, they remain discrete and don't take over the High-Tech aspect given by the grey aluminum chassis. The internal construction is beautiful with a minimal amount of wiring and a unique board regrouping all the circuits. The particular mechanic offers a solid protection against vibrations that could induce reading errors.

Components:

Jadis trusted extremely musical and efficient schemas of the digital and analog fields. We were pleased to find tube output stage working with a tube regulation. The Phillips CDM12 Pro gives great results and is still findable, even if modified on the Orphée.

Bass:

As for every tube electronic, we have given some warming

time to the Orphée before starting the listening. The review was made exclusively with the CD "Saint-Claude" by Christine and the Queens. The synthetic bass is produced with an unexpected level of definition. The bass

Nice view of the inside of the Orphée.

You will notice the foam feet for the CDM that reduce the vibrations.

The two tubes on the right are regulating the high currents.

goes down giving a sense of power, even more than on our reference transport and converter. The light warm effect if highly compensated by the incredible fluency of the low frequencies.

Mid-range:

On the "Paradis perdu" track, we rapidly noticed the astonishing analytical capability of the Orphée. On this aspect, the voice of the singer brings an aerial feeling and we can easily notice all the subtleties of sonic arrangements (fake reverberations, faders and artificial stereo). The

pitch of her voice is obvious and full of fluidity. We also highly appreciated the links between the notes giving more density to the musical message making it more authentic.

High-range:

The implementation of a triode stage, in symmetrical configuration after a converter is often used by the manufacturers and always advertised. Basic schema, basic sound. Jadis was born by and for the tube and they definitely couldn't deliver a unit, even a digital one without implementing tubes in the circuits. The high frequencies are unbind and fluid (incredibly realistic cymbal on "Paradis

perdu"). The harmonics give flexibility and an organic feeling to the listened music. The top high-range is perhaps a little lower than the lower bass but the overall balance of the Orphée remains extremely pleasant.

Dynamic:

It is quite rare to find a CD player with a tube analog output giving such a dynamic as the one provided by the Jadis. On the intro of the track "Gotcha" by Patricia Barber on the "A Fortnight in France", listened at a comfortable level, the contrabass is really convincing with plenty of shade. The slightly rubbed strings provide some frankly modulated sonority

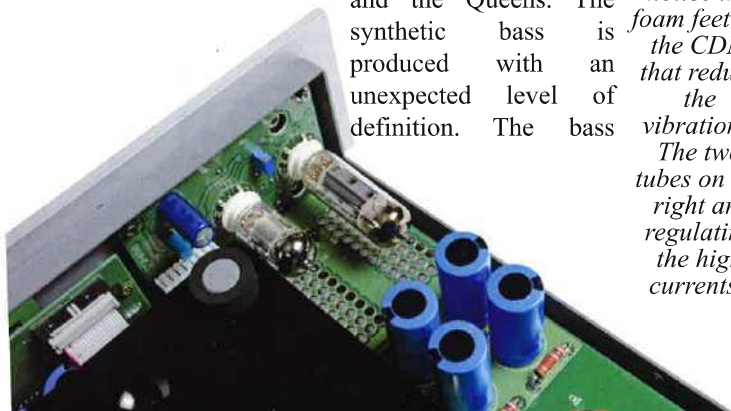
with no approximation in the contours. At a lower level of listening, these gap of amplitude are still highly credible. The Orphée is capable of maintaining its analytic density on a large dynamic scale.

Transient:

Among the CD players that we have tested here, we remember some that were faster than the Orphée. Nevertheless, only very few of them were able to provide a melodious sound without the digital acidity as the Jadis provides. The combination of the well implemented mechanic in the one hand and the tube delta/sigma conversion in the other hand reach the excellent compromise. On the track "Animal" by Francis Cabrel, the impacts of the drum kick if astonishingly convincing, fast and intense.

Sound stage:

We were totally seduced by the sound stage provided by the Jadis with a highly realistic virtual depth. Everything is at its right place and easily recognizable with a sense of special aeration. On the track "Gotcha" (Live version), we retrieve a large concert hall with a public located from the right to the left close to the stage. Patricia Barber and the musicians are located above in front of us. All of these is really close to what we hear when listening with our reference CD player.



Listening system:
 Preamplifier: ATC SCA2
 CODA Stereoblock
 Continuum TSX
 Pierre-Etienne Léon
 Alycastre cables
 Absolue Création In-Tim
 (AES/EBU, mod XLR, spk)
 Van den Hul Mainstream
 (Main)
 Gigawatt (Main)

Transparency:
 We have never been disappointed by a Jadis unit. We might have preferred one over another but we systematically felt something as we were listening. The Orphée also seduced us with is musical message which keeps only the best of the technologies he is carrying. The power of the low frequencies associated with quieter extreme high frequencies provides a tonal equilibrium extremely pleasant and almost organic.

Price/quality ratio:
 As the CD player marked is decreasing, in 2015 only renowned manufacturer as Jadis can still offer High-End units. Indeed the

Orphée is an excellent CD player that is an honor for the French know-how. The connectivity is minimalist but nothing really misses. It also comes with the USB input. The built quality is free of any reproach and the internal equipment.

Verdict:
 A lot of HiFi aficionados are ready to break open the piggy bank when it comes to a Jadis unit as there aesthetic and highly seductive sound are unique on the market. The Orphée bring a more High-Tech and modern look. The tube tradition makes a really good mix with the digital technology. Highly musical

The connections are minimalist, the choice between the playback of a CD or the use of the USB input is made with a selector located on the back of the unit. The general aspect of the Orphée is "retro high-tech" and we must say that it is really beautiful.

with plenty of authenticity in the message, the Orpée gives what we can expect from a Jadis gear. The Orphée do not revolutionize the CD player, Jadis shows that with this beauty, it is still possible to highly appreciate our little silvered discs.

Dominique Mafrand.

Contruction	■■■■■
Components	■■■■■
Bass	■■■■■
Mid-range	■■■■■
High-range	■■■■■
Dynamic	■■■■■
Trancient	■■■■■
Sound stage	■■■■■
Transparency	■■■■■
Perf/price	■■■■■

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JADIS ORPHEE 1

