



Jadis DA88 Signature

Tradition keeper

MICHEL LEROUX

The last time we reviewed Jadis components, it was a set up constituted with a JPL preamplifier, DA7 MkIV power amplifier and the Orphée CD player. Before that we had also received a DA50S and a DA88S two years after its release in 2004. 10 years later, a slightly modified version offers cosmetic arrangements in the first place. The DA88S is now in a polished stainless steel finish. According to Jadis, this finish is more appreciated in several European countries, and is also easier to clean. The potentiometers of the DA88S have also been improved and a remote control can be installed by Jadis on demand. Jadis is located in Southern France in a little town called Villedubert. The company

DA50S and DA88S. All the Jadis units are handmade and witness a passion born in 1983 that remained the same over the years.

Overview:

The DA88 Signature is a 60W tube integrated amplifier working in pure class-A. In fact, it is a power amplifier which integrates a passive preamplifier. With 5 line inputs and one line output, it comes with 2 sets of high quality speaker connectors by channel authorizing bi-wiring. The bias adjustment is automatic, making tube replacement really easy. Our test unit came with 8 x KT88 power tubes and 2 x ECC83/12AX7, 3 x ECC82/12AU7 for the preamp section. All the tubes, are burned-in, tested and paired in order to mount only the very best on the unit. The transformers are massive, hand-made at the Jadis factory; they are poured in a special resin which gives them a great thermal stability and impermeability. The output transformers are capable of handling a load of 2.6kVA. The blue capacitors on the top and inside the unit totalize a capacity of 100 000 µF. The DA88S is built following the point to point wiring technique preventing contact between cables that could be the cause of interferences. The dimensions are: 50x40x22cm for a weight of 40Kg. The DA88S is the most powerful integrated amplifier produced by Jadis. It comes with a 2 years parts and labor guarantee. The tubes guarantee is the one offered by the tube manufacturer which can go from 90 days to 6 months depending on the brand and the model. According to Jadis, the tube lifespan is about 2000 hours and can go to 3000 hours of normal use.

designs and built tubes power amplifiers, line and phono preamplifiers, analog and digital sources and also 5 different models of integrated amplifiers. The Orchestra, I35, I50,

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To get a tube amplifier:

Try to ask a guitarist if he/she prefers a transistor or a tube amplifier. More than one will reply that tube is better due to the provided sound.

For several high-fidelity aficionados, the choice of a tube based system is the only valid one due to the warm and natural sound and the high level of musicality they provide. The

the unit passes from IDLE to operation. On the right side of the unit you will find 3 potentiometers for the volume, the balance and the source selector. The non-magnetic chassis is covered by a golden front plate. On the top of the unit, you will find the tubes and the heat-sink, 6 blue capacitors, two output transformers and a massive power transformer. All the 3 transformers are surmounted by a golden plate. On the back this DA88S, you will find two sets per channel of speaker connectors and the input and output connectors, the unused ones are protected with a rubber cap. Finally an 8A fuse holder and the power input for the main. A tube cage can be installed and tightened by the use of 4 brass screws. The DA88S can be plugged to speaker having a impedance between 1 to 16 ohm and is wired at the factory to work with speaker having an impedance between 4 and 8 ohm.

Setting up:

The tubes are packed separately. As indicated on the owner manual, they have to be installed on their ceramic plug following the numbers written on the individual tube boxes. Along with the unit you will find a pair of gloves which come really handy when installing the unit in order to prevent any finger marks. The KT88 was for a long time regarded as the most powerful power tube of its category. Nowadays, the KT120 and KT150 joined the small circle of high quality tubes. We installed the DA88S on the 1cm thick granite top of a two level Target furniture. The DA88S was linked with Bis Audio Maestro/Vivat and Nordost Valhalla 2 which are tested as well in this issue. As mentioned in the owner manual the DA88S inverts the absolute phase of the input signal. In order to reverse it again, we just need to invert the connections on the speakers or on the amplifier: Black on Red and Red on Black. Jadis preconizes a 30 minutes warm up before the unit gives its full potential. This mean that the listener will have to choose in advance then the listening session will occur.

Morphology:

The front of the unit displays, from left to right: two switches, one for the power up and one that activates or disactivates the IDLE mode, a led that goes from red to green when

L'oiseau-Lyre/Decca Records edition on the Academy of Ancient Music directed by Christopher Hogwood. This masterpiece is really seductive due to its fluent melody and the linearity of the vocal timbres of the soprano Emma Kirkby and of the countertenor James Bowman, all are extremely well rendered with the DA88S. The involvement feeling provided by this Jadis is rarely matched. The intensity and the sense of contemplation coming from the music reach such a high level of authenticity that it touches the soul of the one listening.

On the same register of classical music with: Sonates pour violoncello et basse continue by Vivaldi. The booklet that comes with the disc mentions: "Pleasing the ears isn't the only goal of the music, it has to express feelings that excites and touch the listener". The DA88S is really good at this exercise. Rhythmical richness, generous vivacity and musicality, these are attributes that well thought tube amplifiers provide. The sonority and the timbres roundness of the instruments played on the disc are perfectly transcribed, as the space separating them and the dynamic. All is extremely detailed; the mid-range is well opened and natural while the bass go deep everything harmoniously matched for a listening filed with emotion.

As the tube electronics usually give great results, especially on recording of acoustic instruments, the album "Jazz the Right Time" by the Scott Hamilton Quintet. This vinyl is still up to date even if it was produced in 1986 by Concord Records. When compared to a transistor unit, the Jadis has the upper end when it comes to texture, natural and fluidity. As if the organic side of the tube technology tended to increase the harmonic richness of the instruments. The high range is silky and the bass are tangible, all coming with a great openness and amplitude on the mid-range. The wind instruments that can sometimes be irritating are transcribed with a listening comfort that makes us enjoy their particular timbres.

Conclusion:

The advantages brought by the tube electronics in a system have their adepts whom are more numerous than one could think. This is the

same regarding the number of manufacture dedicated to this technology. Thinking about acquiring one require patience and consideration but as well the will of experimenting its virtues in order to cross the line. When it comes to the DA88S, proud keeper of a tradition and the passing time, its virtues give it a particular place in the top of well designed tube integrated amplifiers. Its quality manufacturing and high capability of transcribing musicality is obvious as the listening pleasure that it brings. Nevertheless we would have appreciated a volume potentiometer with smaller steps in order to obtain a more precise graduation. Moreover, a time counter system for the tube would have also been a good thing. In the end the Jadis DA88S with its high seductive power is a must for those who wish to enjoy an engaging listening and who want to be taken a highly musical world.



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