

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER



Micromega MyAmp

If you were 99 out of 100 small amp manufacturers, you'd probably do things differently to this. Looking inside the MyAmp, the cynic in us had expected to see a few nondescript Class D modules. But, surprisingly, the company has gone the Class AB power amplifier way. This doesn't in itself guarantee superlative sound, but it tells us the designers haven't been content to take the obvious option. Micromega uses a Class AB circuit that claims a solid 30W RMS per channel and twice that into half the load – this suggests its 260W LLC Resonant Mode power supply is up to the job.

It has an ESS Sabre Hyperstream DAC built-in, giving 24/96 via its electrically isolated USB input and 24/192 via optical and coaxial digital inputs. This means you can plug your CD player, DAB radio, Blu-ray player or PlayStation in, as well as your computer to play your hi-res files. Another inclusion that's really rather useful is aptX Bluetooth.

Sound quality

With a detailed midrange and unexpectedly powerful bass for its size and price, the MyAmp doesn't sound like most small amplifiers. Even driving our reference £7,000 Sonus faber Olympica II loudspeakers and fed from a £9,000 dCS Debussy DAC, it isn't exactly overwhelmed.

Via any of its three analogue inputs, it remains enjoyably smooth and even, never descending into coarseness, even with thin sounding and forward source material such as *Gangsters by The Specials*. This track proves great fun, with a bouncy and supple bass, a clear and detailed midband and a crisp, lustrous treble. There is certainly no sense of this being a cheap 'lifestyle' audio component; instead it sounds precisely like the fine compact amplifier it is.

Moving to some slicker and more sophisticated soul music, it continues to impress with Isaac Hayes' *Cafe Reggios*, which sounds surprisingly sumptuous and inviting. This track is beautifully recorded and has some delicious silky string sounds running right through, which the MyAmp handles very respectfully. Unlike lesser small budget amplifiers, it remains both smooth and composed, doing just enough to give a realistic timbre to those gorgeous sweeping strings. At the same time, it bounces along in the bass and serves up a satisfyingly spacious recorded acoustic. In absolute terms, you can tell that there is a very slight softness to the cymbals, and lower down it doesn't quite have the transparency of more expensive amps, but it makes a good stab at getting things right.

It's time to try some seriously powerful percussive music and so K-Klass' *Rhythm Is A Mystery* is duly

cued up – a powerful, pounding house track from the early nineties with massive tracts of thumping synth bass. If this doesn't get an amplifier out of its comfort zone then nothing will, but the MyAmp responds rather demurely. It kicks out great big slabs of low frequencies, and even at high volumes remains relatively composed, showing few signs of being perturbed by what it is being asked to do. It gets a bit warmer admittedly, but doesn't seem to be sweating musically, remaining balanced across the frequency range with no obvious signs of discomfort higher up. This track can sound a little bit forward, partly because it was recorded on early nineties DAT machines, but the Micromega doesn't make a fuss and remains eminently listenable. It should be able to drive any average or above average sensitivity pair of speakers; anything above 88dB should really move air in your room.

Conclusion

If you are looking for a compact amplifier to make music in your study, bedroom or kitchen we can think of few that are much better than this ●

DETAILS

PRICE
£480

ORIGIN
France

WEIGHT
1kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
140 x 75 x 140mm

FEATURES

- Quoted power: 2x 30W RMS (8ohms)
- 1x USB, 1x optical, 1x coaxial digital inputs
- 3x analogue inputs
- ESS Sabre Hyperstream 24-bit/192kHz DAC
- Headphone output

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HI-FI Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★

VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★

BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★

FEATURES
★★★★★

OVERALL
★★★★★

LIKE: Size; style; packaging; sound; flexibility

DISLIKE: Nothing at the price

WE SAY: Lovely, characterful, compact integrated amplifier; best in class