

BRYSTON

A Lifetime of Music

MEMO: To All Bryston Customers

SUBJECT: BDA-1/BDP-1 Customer Response

DATE: December 2011

Bavarian

HiFi addicted 20 years and counting...

BDP-1 and BDA-1

Both the BDp-1 and BDA-1 arrived the afternoon of November 30th. After six days of spending as much time as possible listening to the pair, I am really pleased and content with this purchase. At risk of sounding over dramatic, this is such a large change for the better in my system and a great step up from my Cambridge 840C.

I had owned a Rega Apollo prior to "upgrading" to the 840C, but always felt like I wasn't 100% satisfied with the change to the 840C. The Cambridge surely throws a larger stage and better depth than my Apollo ever did, but the imaging is always just slightly odd. Depth of stage images seem to float in space with the 840C, but don't feel truly "rooted" and real by comparison. My assumption is that it's the non-up-sampling and class A output stage in the Bryston combo and the Rega Apollo that makes the largest difference and creates the more rooted and palpable images when compared to the 840C. (I would not place the Apollo and the Bryston combo in the same realm, but the Apollo has a similar warmth and color palette in my opinion)

I'm very surprised by how much I am enjoying the sound of ripped non-up-sampled 16/44.1 files. The background is inky black with a truer sense of calm in the sound stage. I hadn't noticed the "lack of rooted calm" (not sure how else I can describe this) with CD's until hearing this combo. I assume it's the combination of no spinning disc drive and the general boost in overall quality of the dual DAC's, class A output stage and overall reduction in jitter when compared to CD players. The dynamics are also far and away superior to that of my 840C. Just to be clear, my intention with this post is not to run down the 840C as I intend to keep mine around and still feel it is a bargain in CD players - but the **Bryston combo is a large improvement in virtually every area.**

The Bryston combo allows me to truly enjoy digital (and all the conveniences that come with that) without the nagging feeling that I would be happier or more relaxed listening to my vinyl collection. If you are considering the combo, my advice is order them - you will be glad you did.



James Tanner
BRYSTON LTD.