

# BRYSTON

A Lifetime of Music

**MEMO: To All Bryston Customers**

**SUBJECT: Bryston Cubed Amplifier vs SST2**

April 2016

## Bryston Owners/Potential Thread



Once upon a time I had a full rack of Bryston gears and there have been numerous changes along the way but not the Bryston 4BSST2 – it's still sitting confidently on the rack.

I would have made a switch if there had been a convincing alternative and here is why I stayed with it for so long:

<http://www.xtremepiece.com/yabbse/index.php?topic=84322.msg968958#msg968958>

...not until the arrival of the Bryston Cube.

In December 2015, Bryston announced the Cube series further improving the SST2 series. That piqued my interest and unlike many audiophile brands in the market of which you hear of new models ever so often, a new offering by Bryston is rare and far-in-between, and thus deserving of checking it out.

Bryston official brochures claims the follows:

- Dramatically less distortion at input stage
- Improved common mode noise rejection
- Major improvement in EMI/RFI noise rejection
- Less than 500mW standby power consumption
- Update dress panel aesthetic with clean lines and new finish



Cubed Series amplifiers feature a new-patented input circuit that is precisely optimized and linear beyond any we've used before. Featuring twelve active devices in a groundbreaking array, this new circuit both matches the amplifier to virtually any preamplifier and provides the first 6dB of gain. The new input stage is so transparent; its measurable distortion is less than 1/1000th of 1 percent!

These claims are no small feat and quite literally if they were to be true, the synergy of my tube line-stage would significantly improve with a Cube. On top of that, the

promising lower noise floor will further enhance the tube preamplifier and solid-state amplifier setup.

Here are my notes while listening to a wide range of tracks on a 4B3 Cubed over the last several hours:

- The soundstage is deeper and wider.
- A perceivable lower noise floor; quiet and clear contrast.
- Superb imaging and clarity with distinctive separation of instruments.
- Refinement and ability to hear more into the tracks
- Bass is tuneful yet with the adequate control and depth Bryston is known for.
- Tendency to push up the pleasure knob for more.

The newly designed circuitry in the Cubed Series amplifiers certainly lives up to its claim and delivers more than I expected in sound quality and musicality.

I did noticed the soft start took almost half the time it used to and this helps shorten the time to power up the amplifier. There seems to be a soft low humming sound after start up. This is similar to the BIT power conditioner when it's new and disappears after some run in or use.



Now, we don't live in a perfect world and like any mortal man we nit and pick all the time so here is one thing I would still gripe about.

I have difficulties fitting in the speaker cable spades into both positive terminals on the power amplifier. Strangely, I don't have any issue on the negative terminals or on the SST2 series.

I hope Bryston can consider terminals that are much easier to work with like the Mundorf M-Connect Terminal TPCU870GC Large Classic Gold plated Copper post. However, there is always banana plugs and they are easy with the 4B3.

Hope the above will help give you some ideas and I have some pictures ... have a good weekend ahead! :)

Mousike