

the absolute sound

PRESENTED BY AVguide.com



Some things in life ARE free.

Post a 30 day listing on Sound Offers for free!

Use coupon code: **avguide** Offer ends 3/21/11

**POST
TODAY!**

Audio

Home Theater

Headphones

Magazines

Search:

Site Search

GO

Mastersound Evolution 845 (Hi-Fi+ 79)

[Home](#)

March 14th, 2011 -- by Alan Sircom

Source: HiFi+

When appropriately partnered, the Mastersound Evolution 845 is a delight to listen to, especially with classical and vocals. It breathes with live, unamplified instruments and feels like it gives the instruments the chance to sing out as they were made to.

Like many good amps, this starts from the midrange out. The mids are intensely satisfying, in they way scrambled eggs on hot buttered toast on a cold winter's morning is intensely satisfying – naughty, but nice. Midrange sounds here are lithe and entice you to listen longer. No, they won't turn PJ Harvey into Ella Fitzgerald, but the Mastersound's midrange combines vocal clarity and articulation with a huge soundstage and a seductive richness that draws you in.



Moving away from the midband is not a wrench, because the treble is clean, extended and very attractive. The harmonic richness of the midrange appears to extend into the high frequencies, giving the overall sound a sense of coherence and natural balance that is often lacking in this 'boom/tizz' modern world. Once again, there seems to be a pattern to the way you discover the sound of the Evolution 845; that harmonic structure hits you like the top notes of a perfume, this is followed by the middle or heart notes of tying all the music together cohesively and finally a base note of large sense of soundstage scale. And yet again, I found myself drawn more toward vocals and acoustic instruments and away from wailing guitars and headbanging.

The bass is almost as strong as the mid and top.

FREE!
**CLICK HERE
TO DOWNLOAD!**





Once again, the sense of harmonic structure, huge soundstage and overall coherence hold a lot of sway and will win over many people. And once again, the way the bottom end charms and seduces you with live, unamplified music is hugely persuasive. But there is a slight euphony here, the bottom end is almost too lush – it's the sort of amplifier that makes the piano on 'Willow Weep for Me' by Sarah Vaughan at Mister Kelly's

sound a fraction slow next to her voice and yet paradoxically speeds up the somewhat ponderous rhythm section on 'The Quality of Mercy' by Michelle Shocked on the Dead Man Walking OST. This is ultimately an image solidity issue, and is the place where this valve amp sounds most 'valvey'; musicians don't sound as rooted in space as they can when played with the sort of control of a top-notch solid-state design. But you need a good reference point to notice this kind of euphony. Having lived with a Devialet D-Premier for a while now, I don't think I would count myself among those craving that euphony anymore, but even being used to the bloodiest of bleeding edge sounds now, I have to admit this one sings a siren's song.

That's the magic of the Mastersound Evolution 845. Turn it on, wait half an hour and the sound is so seductive it's hard to resist its charms, even if what you normally listen to (both in terms of audio technology and the sort of music at which it excels) is very different. If you think valve amps are all about squidgy soft and warm sounding, the Mastersound is the natural way to show just how wrong preconceptions can be. Anyone with a penchant for acoustic music – especially if you own a pair of big Tannoys – might find their system undergoing some radical Evolution soon.

SPECS & PRICING

Stereo dual mono integrated amplifier in Class "A"

Parallel Single ended

Power tubes: 4 x 845

Pre-driver tubes: 2 x ECC82

Driver tubes: 2 x 6SN7 GT

Power: 2 x 55Watts

Inputs: 3 line + 1 direct RCA phono

Input impedance: 100 K ohm

Load impedance: 4 - 8 Ohm

Negative feedback: 0 dB

Bandwidth: 8Hz-40kHz – 0 dB

Dimensions (WxDxH): 54 x 47 x 27 cm.

Weight: 53 Kg

Price: £9,495

Manufactured by Mastersound

www.mastersoundsas.it

Distributed by Jordan Acoustics

www.jordanacoustics.co.uk

Tel: (UK only) 0800 121 4771

[« first](#) [‹ previous](#) [1](#) [2](#)

Add new comment