

Short Review - 70's Solid State to the Ella

Right from the start, I was knocked out by the sound of the Ella. I felt like I was hearing my favourite cd's for the first time. It was as if the musicians were in the room with me, such transparency and detail. I also played some of my own recordings (I am a musician) and it was like being in the control room listening to myself on the studio reproduction system (excellent of course). Vocals are extraordinarily clear and present and acoustic instruments like double bass and alto sax sound so alive. The first evening I took the Ella round to a friend's house where we compared it with what he had previously thought of as hi-fi sound from his solid state system. He too was astounded by the sound quality. Since then, I have listened to many of my favourite cd's as well as a few that I had neglected. I listen mostly to acoustic jazz, but I also gave Prince (Sign of the Times), Lou Reed (New York), Tom Waits (Mule Variations) and the Beatles (Revolver) a chance. This amp rocks! I have a Ron Carter (acoustic bass player) cd that I never listened to, as it was just one low rumble on my old amp - now I can hear every note clearly. The lightest brush strokes from jazz drummers are perfectly clear and the spectacular pyrotechnics from Sylvain Luc and Birelli Lagrè (French guitar players) on their Duet album are astonishing. I now have many jealous friends, lots of them musicians. Some of them can't believe I built the amp myself (even I have trouble sometimes!). Everyone agrees that the aesthetics are good too. All together, a remarkable piece of kit, well worth the time and effort that went into building it.



As for further upgrades, I am quite happy with what I've got for the moment! I'll probably go for some Mullard NOS drivers in the future. Don't forget, I'm coming from nowhere (a 1970s Pioneer solid state amp), so the Ella sounds like a light-year leap on its own! My thanks to you, David, for all your help and to Brian for a remarkable product. Keep up the good work! <Dave N – Belgium>

