<u>irtston</u>



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MEMO

FEBRUARY 2022

Absolute Sound - Best Audio Gear 2022

BRYSTON BR-20 PREAMPLIFIER

LUCKY Choice



one of the most successful mergers of a solidstate analog preamp with and built-in streaming available todav.

A model of preamp ergonomics, operationally

It proved to be glitch free. An honest broker in terms of tonal accuracy, it hued to the straight and narrow, and reflected a "just the facts ma'am" fidelity. BR-20 was also superbly quiet, with bass response

that had a combination of grip and authority that are the hallmarks of the best preamps of this type. Since the BR-20 unwaveringly reproduces what's on the recording, those who prefer a little added sweet frosting will find the Bryston stubbornly neutral.

A superb headphone output comes standard.

Tempting options include a HDMI board and a phono stage. The BR-20 operates effectively via it's web user interface, but a handy aluminum remote control is also included.



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BRYSTON BP-26/MPS2 PREAMPLIFIER



The BP26 is a fully featured preamp with a tape loop, a mono/stereo toggle, a mute toggle, a channel balance control, a motorized volume pot, an input selector, and a feature one does not find very much anymore – a phase-inversion toggle. Remote control is now included. The BP26 has both balanced/XLR and unbalanced/RCA inputs and outputs and a $\frac{1}{4}$ " headphone jack.

The BP-26 sounds musical and engaging with fabulous rhythmic drive and momentum. It is tonally neutral with an open quality that does not veer toward edgy or forced. It imparts a sure-footed foundation with good bass extension and control. The Bryston's musicality is more along the lines of a winning, agile tunefulness, than a musicality derived from a beguiling, silky lusciousness.

BRYSTON 7B CUBED AMPLIFIER



Bryston's 600W 7B3 mono-block power amplifier is a wonderfully musical product.

It offers feature-rich, real-world practicality and the ability to drive a wide range of speakers thanks to its very high power/current delivery. If you favour blockbuster sold-state amplification and would rather not spend more on audio gear, the Bryston 7B3 should be on your short list.

Bryston B135 Integrated Amplifier





"Wondering if a CD player like the BCD-3 was even relevant in today's digital world?"

> BRYSTON MEMO BEST OF 2022

BRYSTON B135 CUBED AMPLIFIER



Bryston has replaced its well-regarded B100 with the more powerful B1353, which uses preamp elements from Bryston's SP-3 as well as significant technology from its SST2 power amps. With ample analog inputs, an optional mm phono section, and an on-board DAC, it is a versatile unit with enough power (135W) to drive even somewhat tricky speakers.

High build-quality, versatility, and overall sonic immediacy and clarity are it's strong points.

BRYSTON BCD-1 CD PLAYER

Reviewer Alan Taffel began his review by wondering if a CD player like the BCD -3 was even relevant in today's digital world. He discovered, to his surprise, that it was. His next discovery was just how good the BCD-3 sounds, and how much of an improvement it represented over even excellent last-generation CD players. Then the Bryston went toe-to-toe with one of the best CD players available – without embarrassing itself in the least.

Lastly, he discovered that the BCD-3's upgrade path, which consists of turning itself into a transport to work with future or more expensive DACs, really works. Put this together and you really do have what could be your last CD player.

"If I were choosing a CD player that wouldn't break the bank but was unflinching in it's musical and sonic generosity," Alan concluded, "the CD-3 would be at the top of my list".



To Conclude - Our Digital Streamer Players



The BDP-3 digital player is a technological *tour de force* that bridges generational divides: between the Old World CD player and the New World of high-resolution files and music-library management.

The BDP-3 performs the same function as a CD transport but play data files from removable USB storage media at their native resolution and in a multiplicity of file formats. The BDP-3 uses the same digital audio circuitry as the BDP-1 and BDP-2, but like the BDP-2 incorporates a more powerful system board and a correspondingly heftier power supply. Processor speed and memory capacity are also increased. Connectivity is expanded to include an internal SATA connection, an eSATA port, two gigabit Ethernet ports, and six full-current USB 2.0 ports.

The Bryston BDP-3 doesn't merely "sound better", the experience of hearing music through it is qualitatively different. It plays music with unprecedented purity.

BRYSTON BDP 314 DIGITAL PLAYER



The goal of the BDA – 3.14 was simple in theory, but more challenging in practice ---- to add a streaming function to the BDA – 3 platform while retaining the same high sound quality as the BDA – 3.

Reviewer Steven Stone thinks Bryston's efforts were successful. The DAC section for the BDA – 3.14 is built around a pair of AK4490 chips, just like that of the BDA – 3. Instead of building a server from scratch, Bryston began with a Raspberry Pi 3 minicomputer as it's Internet gateway device. Why a Pi? Because it works reliably and has excellent and continuing support from Pi.

In short the BDA – 3.14 is a first class component that could be the center of any high-performance digital audio system.

"The BDP-3 digital player is a technological *tour de force*"

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