

CHECK OUT THESE UNEXPECTED **AMPLIFIER** REVELATIONS!

YOUR HI★FI!

“WHAT A FINE BEAST”

SENSATIONAL STUDIO REFERENCE POWER AMPLIFIERS THAT'LL DRIVE ANYTHING



Why you should expect professional amplification to be better than yours, but at these prices?!

We say a big hello to Devon's

MC²

IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR AIR STUDIOS THEN MAYBE...

MC² Audio S800 Reference Amplifier Review

Unbelievable transparency and power - as required professionally *Tested at £2646*



THE VERDICT

It makes perfect sense to us that a professional studio reference amplifier should sound astonishingly effortless and impart no character to what you are hearing, but at this price it's nothing short of amazing.

Reviewed by Charles Teofil Aryee [email address supplied]

Using the S800 in my system is an enlightening experience and a very healthy reminder, that it is always worth to consider each and every option available, however unusual they may seem at first.

Considering a quite industrial looking, beefy studio amplifier in a domestic setting is usually not the first choice, if at all. I consider myself lucky, because I had been able to experience the renowned MC-1250 amplifier 10 years ago in a very expensive audio chain and went away dumbfounded.

This notion of "pro-audio goodness" has stayed with me ever since and the moment I acquired my new ATC speakers, also a product with pro-audio roots, I knew that I wanted to try an MC² amplifier with them.

Here's my current system line-up that the S800 has become a part of:

Rega Planar 6 turntable + Hana SL MC cart;
Graham Slee Accession MC phono stage with the upgraded Enigma PSU1 power supply;
Chord 2Qute DAC with a Teddy Pardo power supply;
Accuphase C-2400 preamplifier;
ATC SCM40 Mk2 speakers;
Acoustic Revive cabling;
Gigawatt passive power filtering;
SolidSteel racks.

My preamplifier is a very renowned Japanese high-end piece of kit and together with the S800 they provide true high-end amplification. I could consider this combination to be a sort of a "Beauty and the Beast" scenario, the beast being the S800, but what a fine beast.

In and of itself the S800 could actually be considered unremarkable, because it just gets on with the job under any circumstances, without drawing any attention [to itself].

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“But it is only after experiencing this level of performance that one realises... Why wouldn't a reference level studio amplifier actually be the optimal choice also in a home setting?”

It is perfectly transparent, tonally right and utterly effortless with endless reserves, just what an amplifier should be.

But it is only after experiencing this level of performance that one realises that most amplifiers, even some very expensive ones, in one way or another simply fall short. This is exactly what makes this seemingly unremarkable amplifier remarkable. And so becomes the initially unorthodox solution to the problem the one that makes the most sense, namely, why wouldn't a reference level studio amplifier actually be the optimal choice also in a home setting?

An incredibly impressive combination of power and finesse, truly high-end performance for a relatively negligible price. Anyone looking for a high-end amplifier with ample power owes it to themselves to try the S series from MC² Audio. Just to paint a complete picture I might add, that I was hoping that the fans would be somewhat quieter.



They are by no means loud or overly intrusive, just something one has to get used to. Needless to say even at lower listening volumes they are no more audible. I'd also like to point out the very high build quality and the extremely smooth start-up -there is not a single pop or thump coming from the speakers.

The unassuming looks of the amplifier with the black front plate have also really grown on me.

All in all I am extremely satisfied with the S800; an end-game amplifier for me.

+ PROS: Remarkable, transparent sound and ability to drive anything. Exemplary build quality and a 5-year warranty.

- CONS: Designed for work, not your living room; industrial styling might not be your thing. Fan could irritate.

www.mc2-audio.co.uk