



RECORDING MEDIUMS

## Equipment Feature

### Zanden

Well have you ever heard a standard CD sound better than a top flite SACD or DVD-A player? Have you ever listened to a system thinking that it was vinyl playing only to realise that it was in fact a cd player. If the answer is yes then you have probably encountered the Zanden 2000P transport and 5000S dac already. I realise that many people will read this and dismiss my ramblings out the mouth and speaking in gibberish? Sometimes the answer may be yes but I am as serious as a heart attack when I say that the Zanden CD system is capable of replacing a very good analogue system with standard red book cd's, easier cleaning and storage not to mention direct track access but all with the quality that you have become accustomed to with a good analogue setup.

This is one of those times where the product design is indeed revolutionary and a massive jump in actual sound quality is the result. The list of awards for the 5000S dac below bear out our own impressions:



FOR:  
**ANALOGUE HIGH-DEFINITION PERFORMANCE**  
• IN THE DIGITAL CONVERTER CATEGORY •



Hi-Fi + issue 43 2000P transport - Product of the year 2005  
"...Previously, if someone had offered to replace my record players and record collection wholesale with CDs and a player of my choice, I'd have questioned their sanity and then shown them the door. Now I'd have to consider that offer seriously. That's how big a step the Zanden digital electronics represent. They don't sound like any CD player I've ever heard before. They sound better. They don't sound like any turntable either - they're different. In many ways, they've redefined my expectations of recorded music. Just when you thought CD was dying if not exactly dead, Zanden have brought it back to real breathing life -- somewhere it's never been before -- and that's good news for all of us ..."  
Roy Gregory, HiFi+, March 2005

From now on, when questioned about the Zanden Model 5000 Signature and Model 2000 Premium, I have a suitably impressive-sounding response: They represent a technological plateau in current CD playback, employing both contemporary and old-school thinking. They cost a shade under \$44,000 and comprise the best CD player I've ever heard. All that should explain those big boxes.  
Marc Mickelson, Soundstage.com July 2007

"...For this writer, SACD and DVD-A are like that rumored-to-be-excellent restaurant with the punishingly irregular and unpublished hours. Most the time, it's closed when I stop by. Even though promising on paper and by repute, I can no longer be bothered. Being hungry for music, I need three daily meals. That means RedBook. With Zanden's front-end, SACD and DVD-A have become obscurities in the mists of Avalon - legendary perhaps but not quite real and certainly not relevant to the times... Yamada-San's novel reclocking and I'S master link implementation deserves recognition for what it is: A resetting of the boundaries that have defined (and limited) what RedBook playback has been thus far..."  
Srajan Ebaen, 6moons.com, December 2004

### Wavac

Wavac manufactures the best valve amplifiers that I have ever heard period. I have a rather large collection of quality amplifiers and the system that I sit down to listen to 90% of the time is one with Wavac valve amplifiers. I am not saying that they do everything exceedingly well but they do have a magic quality of realism with voices and acoustic instruments which replicates the actual instrument in such a way as to make the event more lifelike and tangible. You could easily think you are listening to a real instrument, not simply a facsimile of one.



"Did the v1.3s please? You bet! I have some acid test SACDs like Spitball's Pop Condition, Joe Satriani's Engines of Creation, or The Who's Tommy that press the audio spectrum from one end to the other. Over on the LP side, I tossed both Japanese pressings and the Classic Records reissues of Led Zeppelin I, II and III. All knocked my socks off! No lower-powered SET has ever been able to handle these recordings in full range and with full dynamics, in my experience. At absolutely no point did the v1.3s ever run out of juice...the top-to-bottom performance was without any flaw that I spotted. Furthermore, there was no SET-like Bell Curve clustered around the midrange; the v1.3s behaved like a very powerful solid-state amplifier when it came to delivering all frequency ranges with aplomb. And yet it did not sound like solid state. The roundness of the presentation and imaging was like SET, but it had a greater authority than any SET I've ever heard"

"Speaking of which, the Wavac v1.3s are breath-taking when it comes to dynamic range, and a quickness that delights the soul. Whether listening to the quiet delicacies on First Impression Music's The River of Sorrow on pure DSD SACD, or the wondrous Mahler Second or Third symphonies in DSD with Tilson-Thomas and the San Francisco, there's no doubt that the Wavacs have the ability to present a shimmering Chinese string, or a massed orchestra, with ease. Notes hang in the air, climaxes do just that. "  
- Positive Feedback reviewed by David W. Robinson

Wavac for its very substantial chunk of the heavenly realms, the HE-833 v1.3 monoblock SET (mounted on an earlier Brutus Award winner, the Star Technologies Sistrum SP-101 isolation platform). At 150 Watts per, the HE-833 v1.3 can float like a feather, but slam you like a dragon! Dressed in Wavac's traditional champagne gold solid block aluminum chassis, the v1.3's have all the superior tonal qualities of Directly Heated Single-Ended Triodes, but without all the compromises at either the upper and/or lower frequencies of so many of its brethren. VERY authoritative, transparent, with just the lightest touch of gold, and yet able to convey incredible delicacy...can you tell that I love these amplifiers? Once more, Wavac shows why it reigns as "king of SET"! Unreservedly recommended—with rapture.

Wavac - MD-805M  
"I do not recall hearing any amplifier, regardless of type, power or cost, that is more consistently free of tonal colorations. The clarity and openness that flow from these remarkable 805 amplifiers is truly uncanny. They are a Crystal Palace for your music!...  
...The purity and beauty these amps deliver make them worth strong consideration from any highly discerning listener who values musical truth over audio dazzle."  
- Enjoy the music, Wayne Donnelly



Wavac amps can drive just about any Acapella, Peak Consult, Tidal or Kharma speaker. So your choice of speaker to match the amplifier now and in the future becomes almost limitless as the amplifier has the power and drive to easily cope with any changes.

My demonstration Wavac system sells itself. It is expensive and makes no excuses for this fact, the amplifiers are exceptionally reliable and built to a standard which is rarely achieved, but it is its sonic merits which sells the system. It is simply breathtaking!

Newsletter





**sensus**  
FEEL THE SOUND  
ULTRA HI-FI SPECIALISTS

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## News

### Shop for HiFi



We hope you have had time to visit [www.shopforhifi.com](http://www.shopforhifi.com) and see the range of second hand equipment that comes through our doors as well as ex-demonstrator bargains.

Its easy and fast to use, browse by item type or see a full listing, click on the info button for more details of any featured product or cable range. There are review extracts and often our own take on products, but as always we will advise you as best we can but use your own ears to decide what's best for you.

#### Services we offer:

- Sale of second-hand/ex-dem products
- Sell equipment on your behalf on a commission basis (20%)
- Purchase your equipment / trade-in
- One month warranty on second-hand, full-warranty on ex-demo products

We believe that the majority of our customers are not getting the most from their system as their system is generally being strangled by the cables attached to it. It does not matter the price of your current cables as there are some expensive cable makers putting out some very overpriced rubbish.

I have replaced customers cables so often with customers saying that they do not want to pay \$\$\$ for cables or if they were going to spend \$\$\$ then they would upgrade a component instead, all the while not realising that the best components in the world demand more from the cables. Would you put a cheap can of oil in a Ferrari? Would you strain your eyes to read rather than wear glasses?

At the end of the day when most customers hear the upgrade in sound quality they generally agree that cables are indeed an essential component in their own right and can extract more of everything that you like from your current setup. To many it makes no scientific sense that the cables will make such a difference. I say be open to the possibility that you are wrong and listen to the difference that good cables can make. You spend nothing but a small amount of your time and the end result will be more fabulous than you would expect.

### Featured Used Product

Hold your breath for a second as we have a Stunner of a Product this month. For the rather affordable sum of

RRP: \$13,999

Sale Price: \$9,800



We have a Metronome CD 3 which is in our opinion the CD 3 is the jewel in the range and shows real value for money in the audiophile market. The CD 3 is a simply stunning cd player in its own right. It simply get overshadowed by the reviewing press who go straight to the shiny jewel in the box Kalista, it is actually more impressive than the Kalista because they manage to achieve a level of performance at a real world price (you will note that I never said cheap. Good design and engineering is never cheap). You get a much better sense of value for your money and a quality of sound that 99% of planet earth would think they were simply awesome (even 85% of audiophiles agree and when do they ever agree about anything!)

Seriously if you're looking for a CD player that is nudging the quality of a good analogue rig but with none of the foibles of analogue you could do a lot worse than audition a CD3 or CD4. Is it worth stretching the budget? Yes because you will get sound quality that will satisfy rather than a sound that is clinically good.

We are spoiled by having some of the worlds best cd replay equipment in stock from the Zandencombo to Boulder and Weiss. This

### SONY VINYL REISSUE CAMPAIGN

Sony have surprised us all this month by announcing a series of classic vinyl reissues from their back catalogue. Of the fourteen titles in the campaign, a few are available on good audiophile pressings already, some haven't been around since the Simply Vinyl versions a few years back, and some are available on less than perfect US pressings but there's a few gems that haven't been around for some time. These include Bruce Springsteen "Born In The USA", Michael Jackson "Bad", Rory Gallagher "Live In Europe" and The Clash "Combat Rock".

The most exciting inclusion is the Johnny Cash LP "At Folsom Prison", which was planned earlier in the year in the US and then shelved. The full list is:

- Johnny Cash At Folsom Prison
- The Clash Combat Rock
- Leonard Cohen The Songs Of
- Miles Davis Kind Of Blue
- Bob Dylan Blood On The Tracks
- Rory Gallagher Live! In Europe
- Michael Jackson Bad
- Janis Joplin Pearl
- Pearl Jam Ten
- Elvis Presley Elvis Golden Records
- Lou Reed Transformer
- Simon & Garfunkel Bridge Over Troubled Water
- Patti Smith Horses
- Bruce Springsteen Born In The USA

All but one of the above titles are now available, the exception being "Born In The USA", which is due in a few weeks. All the titles are 180g, and from the few we've heard already we can report great pressings, rivaling the audiophile versions on occasion!

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