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With the last consequence

There is not a final stage at ASRs famous Emitter II's amp. However even more consequence. Where is the last stage of development until today of the amplifier legend?

STEREO made a truly colossal test

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Time to reach the final point of development - but he had enough. No other amplifier had such a long production period as the Emitter II of the Herborner ASR company.

But like the sixth generation of the automobile VW Golf, the powerful amplifier, whose variant is reviewed here, was constantly developed and optimized since its conception in 1982.

Maybe even the chief developer of the ASR Emitter Friedrich Schaefer himself sometimes lost the overview of all the different versions and modification stages of his giant.

In issue 11/98 STEREO already had three versions of the Emitter II compared directly.

To this occasion more than 300 kilograms Amplifier were present.

My spinal column and my back still remember with horror.

But diversity and mass are constantly in the ASR program.

Indeed Schaefer has now a straight line his concept.

Today the series starts with the Emitter I for X.XXX,- € and close up to the top model Emitter II exclusive.

The price for the top model starts at X.XXX,- €

With upgraded external power supplies, power filters and increased buffer capacity the noble "Exclusive" - variant costs at least XX.XXX,- €.

Who still even has not enough Emitter, can by a outsourced battery-station for the input-stage for a price of XX.XXX,- €

But like at Volkswagen the equipment list includes a lot of optional extras:

from the MM/MC plug-in phono board (XXX,- €) over additional connections – for example a subwoofer output for XXX,- € - or WBT-speaker-output-connectors (4 pcs for XXX,- €) – to optical special requests.

In short, our test-Emitter with chrome heatsinks (2.500,- €) costs 16.100,- €.

That is a lot of money. However you will not be able to find any comparable and favourable price-weight-relation. All together are standing 135 kilograms in the rack.

These is divided into the actual, with the typical thick acrylic plate covered amplifier, the both big power supplies for the right and left channel which keep away vibrations and leakage field from the amplifier, and also in same size included battery power supply.

This quartet is brilliant!

2000 VA-transformer power – for each channel

If you open the power supplies the respect grows:
You will see two 700 VA PM (Philbert-Mantelschnitt)-transformers ready for power attacks to each channel – one for each half-wave.

Makes 4.000 VA pulse-power all together for the complete amplifier.

On each of the big, heavy ribbed heatsinks are two times 5 Mosfet-power-transistors.

Additionally in the external power supply is a 72 VA transformer for input-stage and control-circuit.

The input-stage is just a level-control, because the Emitter is actually an “amplifier with volume control” as the manufacture points out.

Nevertheless Mr. Schaefer knows that every distortion at the input signal is highly amplified in the following stages and may can influence them, what may cause a bad sound quality.

For this reason the input-stage is disconnected through the battery-power supply completely from the mains supply to avoid interferences.

Six batteries, each 6 Volt/12 Ah serve the input-stage tract for several days.

In standby or OFF the batteries are loaded automatically.

In power on level 1 or 2 the battery power supply disconnected completely from the mains supply automatically.

As in the power supplies the colored LED's indicate the operating conditions.

Who the extremely extensive and detailed Emitter manual studies - this verb is chosen with care – remains informed of all functions.

The current flow through thick cable into the unit, and there specifically and absolutely secure Harting-connector are take care of connection.

The total capacity of all the capacitors amounts to - attention - 1.4 Farad.

Is this a word!?

The ASR has a power saving mode

There is no way to compare an Emitter II with a conventional amplifier

Everything here is some numbers bigger.

To save space in the living room , one reader – witch we recently visited - had banished all power supplies into his basement-room beneath his living-room and led the cable through a hole in the bottom to the amplifier.

Is okay, if everything is correctly connected, you can forget the power-trio.

Then use only the left switch, who switches the amplifier from OFF to STANDBY and into two power modes.

If you enjoy quiet music, switch it to “1” – so the amplifier is running in power saving mode.

If you turn the big level control knob located above the excellent illuminated letters past “35”, or do this with the help of the noble, made from artificial stone remote control, the amplifier had access to the full power.

Certainly you also could provide this from the position “2”.

Then the ASR stays in high power mode with a big current budget even he is running below “35”. What otherwise happens automatically.

With the right knob you can select the relay switched inputs.

On the back plate there is a set of anti-skidding cable terminals for connection.

A micro-processor keep watch and makes sure that this “high power-amplifier” doesn’t break away.

I would like to reborn as a speaker in my next life to connect on an Emitter II Exclusive with battery power supply.

Then he would message my membranes with his strong and smooth power, put me into controlled ecstasies and show me the way to unmistakable happiness.

This was a joke - but it’s the best self realization for a box at this giant-amplifier.

Slow, or simply laid-back?

And all without any hectic !

Even the ASR runs quickly around heavy dynamic corners and shakes high impulses from the transistors, he keeps a cool and laid-back sound.

Where other amps at ambitious levels are rushing bashful and almost in panic through the music, it seems that the Emitter enjoyed the parforce ride and he flogged – pardon – motivated the speakers.

„Und? Weidä!“ how to say in Hessen.

Long time the reputation of the big Emitter was slowness. “They have too much power to run”, has often been said.

I have always asked myself and wondered if it is really true, or only the result of the extreme composure of this family of amplifiers.

In no situation the Emitter is overloaded and he spreads out the music very relaxed.

And all undistorted.

I think that the increasing distortion-factor of other amps, which seems to be supposedly faster, is responsible for this effect.

At the same time stress and inner tenseness will give the impression of hectic to the listener that there is scary happening between the front speakers

True indeed, as something goes like topsy-turvy.

Not so with the ASR.

He holds on an immovable arrangement, implemented string cracks with effee like a flash, and controls his pleasing outstanding bass.

This is the award of the long maturation period of the Emitter II and its consequence to the smallest details inside.

So he is fit for the next 27 years!