



mechanical stability and vibration damping, which is why it is also used in the aerospace industry and for strong professional camera housing, as well as most recently (see latest edition of STEREO) in cabling. And not least as the eighth most frequently used element

(!) it is almost limitlessly available and recyclable, and industrial processing is easy.

### DAC pre-amplifier

The pre DAC is a high-quality analogue pre-amplifier and D/A converter in one, i.e. the components of a system run together here, regardless of whether the source is originally analogue or digital. Eleven sources, including USB, can be connected and it is even possible to use two sources simultaneously, such as to feed a second track into a different room (Multiroom).

Although Cyrus regards the Pre DAC as an entry-level product – albeit only entry-level within the context of the ambitious Cyrus portfolio – the pre-amplifier section uses the same technologies as the top-of-the-range model DAC XP Signature, although the emphasis there is on

## High-End Briquette

**Cyrus is re-launching. And we are mightily impressed by their little box of tricks**

The cult brand Cyrus has a new home in Germany. Beta Audio has recently been looking after sales, in particular Werner Berlin. Rebuilding former success is a job for the boss. And of course there are not just different, completely new products like the stunning sound and equipment levels of the compact “Lyric” system (see STEREO 3/2014), but also an emphasis on old strengths. Namely, the outstanding audio electronics in the extremely handy “briquette” format. To put it into perspective: the typical Cyrus components are roughly as big as five briquettes. And therefore less than half the size of comparable equipment from the competition. But the depth of the “Cyrusses” – and their weight – should not be underestimated, so a proper shelf is needed for them to sit on.

Even 30 years on, we are still constantly surprised at how this manufacturer succeeds in working so economically with the compact dimensions of

the legendary die-cast housing unit (made of a special magnesium alloy) and yet always teases out amazing, often even overwhelming results.

This incredibly strong housing material, suited to a light construction, excels in terms of electrical shielding,



The connections are pragmatically arranged on the Cyrus, as there is not much space. Hollow banana plugs or adapters are necessary for the BFA loudspeaker connections.

the digital section. Synergy effects from state-of-the-art developments for the “smaller” components are typical of this small but fine firm from Cambridgeshire, which we were once able to visit, admiring the small-series production as well as its strict quality principles.

## Step-by-step upgrade possible

And care has also been taken to future-proof the product, to an ingenious extent, because Cyrus grows with the requirements of its owners. The 24 bit/192 kilohertz converter card for the Pre DAC, which is already very good, can be replaced by one with even higher performance called “Qx”, for example. As an upgrade, this worthwhile transplant (which is of course particularly aimed at “digital enthusiasts”) costs 460 Euros.

And the X-Power amplifier can also be operated as a mono unit, if there are increased sound or performance requirements in the meantime – this naturally also means that a second X Power amplifier is needed.

Various bi-amping options are of course also possible, for example with two X-Powers in stereo mode, three in mixed operation (two monos for the basses, a stereo for mid-high ranges) or even four X-Power units in

mono. A system with unlimited possibilities, if that’s what you want. All equipment can also be retro-fitted with an external PSX R power supply (690 Euros each) which considerably raises the sound quality.



The additional power supply takes pressure off the inbuilt supply by dividing the workload. And if, like me,

**The system remote control is easy to handle with well thought-out design.**

you have a particular interest in power and energy supplies, you will not be surprised

by how effective this measure is. What is particularly attractive is naturally the ability to carefully plan but also the budget-friendly gradual move up into the highest sound classes. Which is exactly what I would have liked when I started venturing into this world of HiFi, as it minimises bad buys and the losses involved in changing equipment.

A particular strength of Cyrus has always been timing – and it still is.

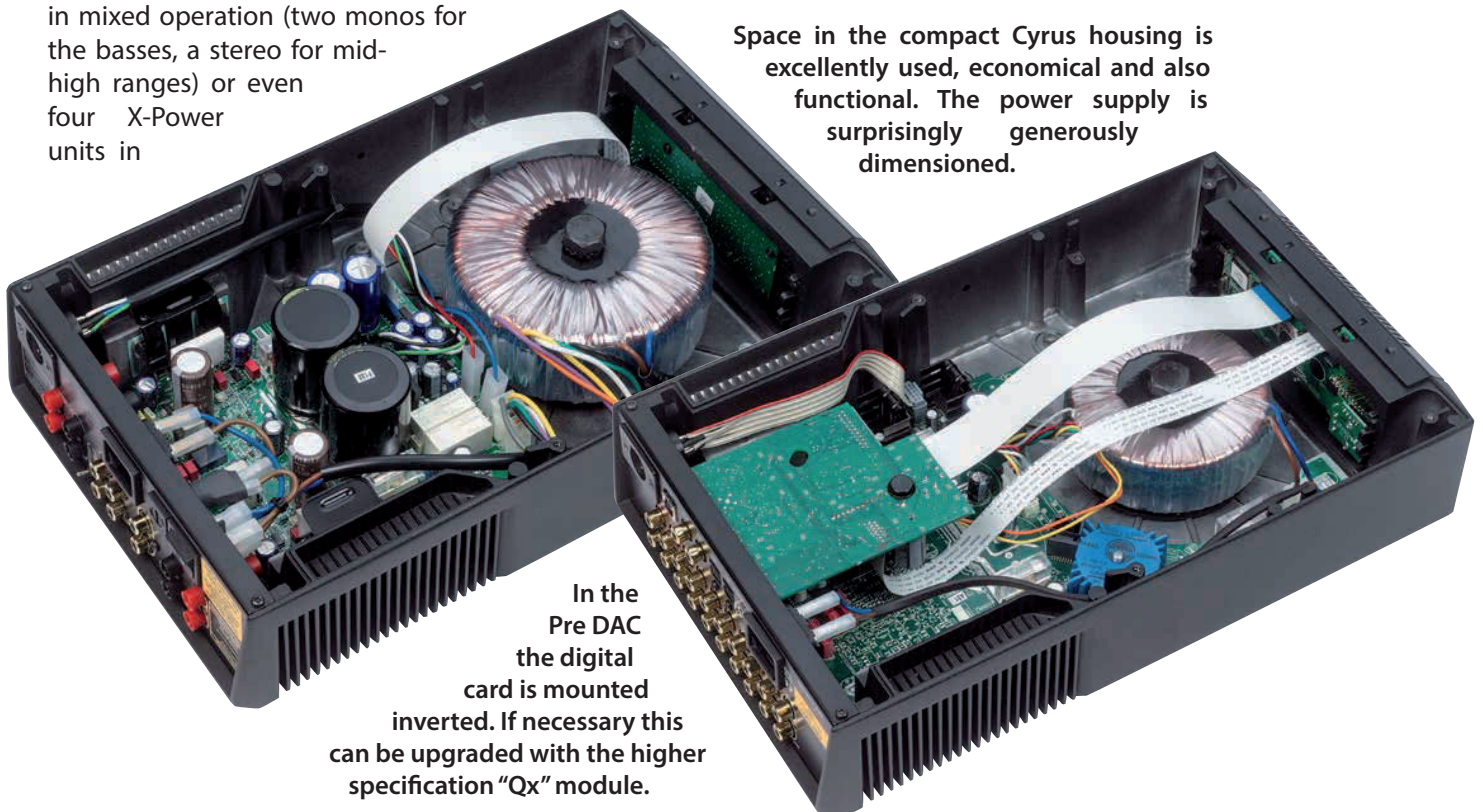
The components have exemplary qualities in terms of flow and rhythm - building up the sound pattern from the eminently important bass and middle range, which is very characteristically transmitted completely without breaks - is richly faceted and enormously natural.

Hardly any other piece of equipment in the same price range, but of a different make, will exceed or at best equal a Cyrus amplifier in reproducing the human voice.

And I am making this claim again here after almost 20 years of experience in testing. Listening to “Fields Of Gold” by Eva Cassidy through a DALI “Ikon”, i.e. good, but not especially expensive loudspeakers, the listener suddenly gets goose bumps. Cliché number one is fulfilled quite unexpectedly. For the likes of us, goose bumps are an emotional quality criterion, miles away from any debate. You simply can’t leave the listening room...

The recital has a light and effortless quality, is quick and agile, but at the same time limpid, not broken down for the sake of the detail.

**Space in the compact Cyrus housing is excellently used, economical and also functional. The power supply is surprisingly generously dimensioned.**



**In the Pre DAC the digital card is mounted inverted. If necessary this can be upgraded with the higher specification “Qx” module.**

The fine resolution is natural and smoothly integrated in the overall context, instead of made available in a gimmicky way and served up on a plate to lead you to believe in its presence and speed. And I'm going to use a second cliché: involuntary foot-tapping. I can and will – and don't want to change it.

## Elegance with boldness

Care has also been taken to provide corresponding emphasis in the lower registers, because even if the moderate performance of the X Power tested once a few years ago (STEREO 2/2006) as a Mono block on standard loudspeakers is rather less often suitable for earthquake simulation, the foundation is powerful and contoured. Beats can be physically felt; textures in bass tracks can be accurately followed. This means that the energy balance is also right and ensures that nothing is annoying or drifts off into the



With benefits for sound quality, it is possible to connect an optional PSX-R network component, and the X Power can also be operated as a mono set.

world of clinical analysis. The display is nicely illuminated, well thought-out in its depth and width. The space-time allocations are authentic, delivering an amazing image, and with it a convincing credibility of the dimensions illustrated. It sounds very open, free and detached. For just over 3000 Euros it is definitely a top-notch sound solution.

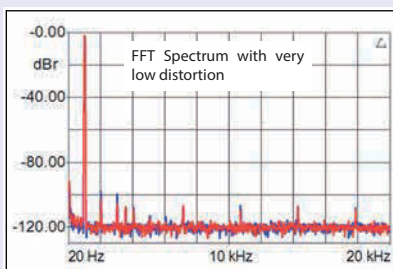
Tom Frantzen

## CYRUS PRE DAC



Elegant, rhythmic "swinger" and excellent pre-amplifier with high-quality D/A converter. Upgradable.

### TEST RESULTS\*



Maximum output	(1 kHz, 1% THD)	2,9 V
T.H.D.	0,03   0,3   1 Volt	0,007   0,001   0,001 %
Intermodulation	at 0,03   0,3   1 Volt	0,001   0,0006   0,0006 %
s/n ratio (CD)	(500 mV, 1 kOhm)	
at 0,03   0,3 Volt		84   101 dB
s/n ratio (DAC)		100 dB
Channel separation	at 10 kHz	71 dB
Upper cut-off frequency	(-3 dB)	>80 kHz
Output impedance	at 1 kHz	130 Ohm
Crosstalk	Tuner/CD at 10kHz	90 dB
Channel balance	at -60 dB	0,02 dB
Power consumption	Off/Standby/Operating	0   0   8 Watt

**LABORATORY COMMENTS:** Outstanding laboratory results. All values measured are absolutely at the top of the range, although it is of course the distortion, noise and crosstalk values which are the most interesting. The maximum output voltage of 2.9 volts may not be lavish, but should be sufficient for even the highest power amplifier requirements.

### EQUIPMENT

System remote control. Purely high-level pre-amplifier with 6 analogue and 5 digital inputs (incl. USB), headphones socket, zone 2.

### STEREO-TEST

SOUND QUALITY **73%**

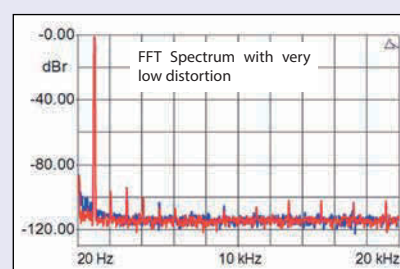


## CYRUS X POWER



Despite its compact size, powerful and colourful mono/stereo power amplifier with pronounced audiophile virtues.

### TEST RESULTS\*



Continuous power	8   4 Ohm	74   112 Watt pro Kanal
Impulse power	4 Ohm	145 Watt pro Kanal
T.H.D.		
at 50mW   5W   Max -1dB		0,004   0,001   0,003 %
Intermodulation		
at 50mW   5W   Max -1dB		0,0006   0,004   0,001 %
s/n ratio	at 50 mW   5 Watt	76   85 dB
Channel separation	at 10 kHz	78 dB
Damping factor	at 4/ 8 Ohm	40
Upper frequency limit	(-3 dB, 4 Ω)	>80 kHz
Power consumption	Off   Standby   Operational	0   6   12 Watt

**LABORATORY COMMENTS:** Respectable output performance, certainly sufficient for most applications with substantial spare capacity and top-quality values in all important categories such as extremely low distortion and low noise.

### EQUIPMENT

Stereo/mono switch, only asymmetric (Cinch) inputs. Due to its compact construction, it has BFA loudspeaker connections (two pairs), which can only accept hollow banana plugs or have to be provided with adapters (supplied) for bare cables or banana plugs. Hard network switch.

### STEREO-TEST

SOUND QUALITY **74%**

