If there is one manufacturer that represents the delicacy of the French craftsmanship, Jadis would be the one with their sumptuous tubes electronics. The JPL preamplifier and the JA30 mono bloc power amplifier are amongst the most notorious units of the brand and they have been updated to the MkII version.

First of all, Jadis is a unique look an aesthetic recognizable amongst many with polished brass and inox.

**JPL MKII PREAMPLIFIER:**

We won't talk much about the JPL MkII chassis as we all know its origine. All the components are installed on a large printed board, the latest protected by a large black cage to protect them. The cage holds on the chassis with 4 long screws. As the JPL MkII is a LINE preamplifier, on the back of the unit are only high level inputs and output. The casted power transformer supplies the JPL MkII with currents and high currents feeding the new tube regulated power supply designed with EL84 and EF86 tubes. The purpose of this new power supply is to clean up the currents before feeding the audio stages that were designed by André Calmettes. This stages works with 3 x 12AX7 (ECC83) and 1 x 12AU7 (ECC82). The “CD” input is slightly different with one more gain stage with one 12AU7, this also allows to increase the input impedance that is seen by the CD player. The other inputs are placed toward a first triode in cascade configuration with a second one, then, the signal crosses a catholic output stage with low impedance.

On the top of the JPL we can see a large amount of “snap-in” capacitors and new plastic-films link and decoupling capacitors. When the power switch is activated, a red LED will light up on the front of the JPL MkII, this LED will turn green after about 10 minutes when all the tensions have been stabilized. Then, a switch muting is also available on the front plate along with a source selector, the balance and the volume control.

**MONOBLOCK JA30MkII:**

The JA30 MkII takes place in the same chassis as the former JA30. The MkII version now works with the new KT150 pentode allowing a progression of the power output from 30W with EL34 or KT90 to 45W with the KT150 (in pure class A). Note: The previous pentodes (EL34/6CA7/KT88/KT120) will still work on the JA30MkII with a small internal modification. As for the first version of the JA30, we still find the large transformers with its polished cap and the casted output transformer with the gold plate on the top. The filtering is made by the two huge capacitors sitting between the two transformers. All the tubes are placed on the back of the unit and protected by a removable cage. There are 4 tubes per bloc, two KT150 pentodes working in pure class A and push-pull configuration. Also two double triodes: 1 x 12AU7 (ECC82) and 1 x 12AX7 (ECC83) that handle the gain stage and the phase shifting stage. A light negative counter reaction is applied and the screen grid of the KT150 a polarized by intermediate output on the output transformer. The filament power supply is filtered and regulated.

**Manufacturing and listening:**

Building: The realization of these two products is of really high standards; this is the rule at Jadis. The quality and thickness of the selected material (stainless steel and brass) as well as their finish is outstanding. The quality of the assembling is as well perfect. The schematic of these units being perfectly mastered by Jadis is implemented using high quality passive and active components.
We are not so far from the potential of the new output stage of the JPLMkII. The instrument vibrates by a TO3 type regulator with a constant current source. The high efficiency reference speakers with a tube system and specifically a Jadis one. On the track "My treasure" by the Danish jazz artist Sinne Eeg, the double bass rendition gave us a first impression of the potential of the new output stage of the JA30MkII. The instrument vibrates with incredible amplitude filled with excellent realism which was not noticed that the power supply of the JA30MkII does not bend from large current demand. We also noticed that the JA30MkII along with the JPLMkII are even more at ease when it comes to the transcription of micro details thanks to their rich high range and midrange frequencies. Copper and drums on the track "My treasure" by Sinne Eeg are displaying an incredible harmonic precision.

**Technical specification:**
- **Origin:** FRANCE
- **JPLMkII:**
  - **Dimension:** 43x17x29cm
  - **Weight:** 15Kg
  - **Bandwidth:** 20Hz – 70kHz @ -3dB
  - **Input impedance:** 100k (line) 1M (CD)
  - **Outputs:** 5xRCA, 1xRCA tape out
  - **Input sensitivity:** – 70kHz @ –3dB
  - **Distortion:** <0.6%
  - **Bandwidth:** 20Hz – 60kHz @ –3dB
  - **Dimension:** 46x21x21cm
  - **Weight:** 22Kg
  - **Power output:** 45W/channel pure class A
  - **Bandwidth:** 15Hz – 6KHz @ –3dB
  - **15W**
  - **Distortion:** <0.6%
  - **Input sensitivity:** 1V (100K)

**Jadis JPL MKII & JA30 MKII**

Once the protection cage is really noticed, we have access to all the components of the preamplifier where the two power supply regulation tubes, the four double triodes, all the capacitors and resistors.

With one quick glance inside we can guess easily that Jadis didn’t make any compromise on the selection of the components: Huge quantity of filtering capacitors on the preamplifier, homemade transformers, point to point wiring on the power amplifiers etc…).

**Components:**
When Jadis starts a new products or when it is about an update to an already existing model as for these MkII versions, they don’t question the implication of the musician playing his instrument. The quality and timbre corrected provided by this Jadis combo are of the highest standing. Moreover we didn’t notice any tendency to “exaggerate” with tones more colorful than reality or misleading pushed forward part of the bandwidth that would give a false “cinemascope” effect. On the contrary, everything is really linear and coherent. We got carried away by extremely truthful tonal flavors and permanent fluidity. The soprano Simone Kermes singing “Ha Vinto Amor” seems real with an agreeable feeling of presence. We are not so far from the rendering of a quality single stage type or electronics. Subtle vibrators are clearly revealed. Another similarity between single ended electronics and this Jadis combo are the high frequencies. We are still surprised of the fluidity and resolution of this part of the spectrum. This is a clear demonstration that Jadis totally mastered and optimized the schematics and tubes’ sweet points. The restitution is always precise but without any kind of aggressiveness. These qualities reveal that there are no conception defaults along the processed signal. The track “Animal” from Francis Cabrel in which the voice of the signer could sometimes feel dry or lifeless if the electronics lack some texturing and energy is successfully transcribed by the two Jadis which give the song a dose of reality and intensity.

**Dynamic:**
Jadis’ capacity to react to powerful impulsions solicitations is really satisfying and we do not feel frustrated when we listen to the bass drum on the song “Animal” by Francis Cabrel. The impact when is clearly here and seem real as the power supply of the JA30MkII does not bend from large current demand. We also noticed that the JA30MkII along with the JPLMkII are even more at ease when it comes to the transcription of micro details thanks to their rich high range and midrange frequencies. Copper and drums on the track “My treasure” by Sinne Eeg are displaying an incredible harmonic precision.

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Responsiveness:
Jadis’ behavior in terms of responsiveness and instantaneity could make some class-A transistorized systems blush. On the “concerto per due violini” by Vivaldi, the tonal differentiation and position of the two violins is obvious, thanks to the dense, detailed and spontaneous harmonic development of the Jadis. The presence of the lower frequencies is delicately counterbalanced by the tonus of the mediums and trebles. In the end, the Jadis bring us a message filled with authenticity.

Sound stage:
The specialization given by the Jadis combo is one of the most realistic and holographic that we ever listened. The revelation of the harmonic cortege from the start, along to the development and the end of the note reveals all the details of the sound capture. Everything is audible, every single reverberation is precisely focalized and this high analytic tonus helps setting up a particularly aerial and credible sound stage.

Transparency:
It is really obvious after the first seconds of listening that the combo Jadis JA30MkII monoblocks and JPL MkII are really transparent. The whole restitution reminds of reality along the listening. Subjective bandwidth is large, the tonal register are really coherent and free from any reproach.

System:
Electronics:
- Nagra CDP (Drive)
- Totaldac D1-dual
- Speakers: PMC MB2
- Câbles: Absolue creations (AES/EBU, mod&speakers)

Without being the fastest tubes electronics that we were given to review, the Jadis combo gives a vivacity that don’t denaturize the texture and content of the message.

Price/perf ratio:
Jadis’ electronics are not at the reach of everyone. The quality of the materials, circuitry and components and the amount of work needed to assemble these units by hand explain largely the price of the combo JA30MkII and JPL MkII. Of course a Jadis is by essence really minimalistic. This means that beside the traditional polished chassis and golden plates, all the investments are made in order to fulfill audio perfection. This means that not remote control are available, no digital input but top end transformers made in house, largely optimized schematics and exceptional finish. To own a Jadis is an act of passion.

JADIS JPL MKII & JA30 MKII

Verdict:
The launch of the JA30MkII monoblocks with KT150 and JPL MkII line preamplifier is not a revolution but a welcomed evolution of two models already on point in their original versions. Jadis doesn’t release new models very often, but when a modification could improve the sonic performance of a model, it gives an MkII version. This represent really well Jadis’ state of mind when it comes to new model and Jadis proved it again with this MkII versions of the JA30 and JPL that have gained in musicality and realism. Qualities that Jadis will keep, with no doubt for many years to come.

DOMINIQUE MAFRAND

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