



INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER OR AMPLIFIER/DAC OF THE YEAR

Primare i25 Prisma | Reviewed in Issue 172

The Primare i25 amplifier platform is a 100W per channel integrated design, featuring the company's own UFPD 2 amplifier modules, an updated version of Primare's original 'all-analogue Class D' UFPD module. It is also modular, with plug-in cards to add an AKM-based DAC and the company's Prisma network system. Prisma is the digital streaming platform common to Primare products. It runs on a Google Chromecast backbone, but is platform agnostic; you can connect it via Ethernet to a local network and/or the internet. Chromecast also makes the i25 Roon-friendly.

In our test, we found the fully-configured i25 to combine successfully ease of operation, network flexibility, and – most significantly – excellent sound quality: the perfect triumvirate of performance parameters for a modern amplifier! We thought that the i25 has "a clarity, openness, and extension to the top end that is reminiscent of more expensive audio equipment, and is the antithesis of the notion of 'digital sound'; this is clean and extended, but not hard-edged or bright, unless you push it beyond its limits. At the other end of the frequency range, bass is excellent, having both a healthy weight to it and a good sense of beat." While its bigger i35 brother sounds better in every respect, the Prisma-equipped i25 is a better overall proposition than a basic i35... that's how important Prisma is to the current Primare amp designs, and a reason why this is a Golden Age for audio!

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