

A PLAYER ON THE WORLD STAGE



Color-coding makes the remote control easy to read, but app control remains our weapon of choice.

T+A has overhauled its MP 3000 HV multi-play, and further refined it. The new MP 3100 HV now also plays SACD – and more. It’s world-class!

For the reigning champion, life isn’t always comfortable: enjoy the success too much and it’s long before the competition is treading on your heels and breathing down your neck. Yes, you’ve got the title, but now the hard work begins – keeping challengers at a suitable distance.

If you were, say, high-end manufacturer based in Herford, Germany, and you

already offered the world’s best multi-play as well as one of its most acclaimed CD/SACD players, staying ahead of the pack might seem simple: just put the two together to create a product aimed at delivering unrivalled ability and quality. Done, dusted – and that’s lunch, people...

Which is just what T+A has done: On the platform of its already fantastic MP 3000 HV, the Westphalian company has

built a ‘super’ optical drive and the True 1-bit DSD converter from the PDP 3000 HV, thus creating the new MP 3100 HV, able to play SACDs as well as processing not only PCM but also the best possible music data in DSD format. True, the status of the CD as a sound carrier is steadily diminishing, as is the SACD’s role, but the demand for the highest quality reproduction is determined not just by new releases but existing collections, and the demands of their owners. The new ‘multi-play’ from T+A takes this into account.

If I had been asked what I thought was a perfect product before the 2017 High End show, one of my possible answers would have been the MP 3000 HV. But in Munich, T+A went one better: having already created the PDP 3000 HV as a pure disc player – with converter but without network functions – for the purists, now it announced ‘one machine to rule them all’. And do so uncompromising style.

Since the superbly-engineered SACD drive of the dedicated player couldn’t be used here for space reasons, a completely new one was created. But by any standards this is no poor substitute: very stable, and with resonance-optimizing coating, the transport is decoupled from the extremely solid aluminum housing, its drawer is guided by two stainless steel rods to seal it off from any external mechanical influences. Even the motors have been the subject of close attention, being designed for maximum loads and smooth running.

The new player uses complete separate decoding and conversion paths for PCM and DSD data: while the T+A is based on

Developed in-house, this new drive is at the heart of the MP 3100 HV, and it has been designed and built with total precision. ▶

the company’s sensational, extremely complex double differential PCM signal processing, the DSD data is processed natively – as it is in the PDP 3000 HV. The processing upsamples to DSD1024 for maximum precision and T+A officially states that data up to DSD512 can be received via USB and processed. The data preparation eliminates virtually all clock/jitter and, if a certain quality standard is not met, a second level of jitterbusting is activated.



The DSD/PCM DAC system here, which is also available to external sources via the digital inputs, is thus not only the heart of the MP, but also the match of any standalone competitor. Whether accessing streaming services or your own NAS over LAN/WLAN, connecting a PC via USB or smartphone/tablet via Bluetooth, or making use of the armada of digital connections, you can be sure that you will find the right solution for your needs.

And as if all that wasn’t enough, the T+A also has integrated FM, DAB+ and Internet radio receivers, further extending the user’s entertainment options. When it comes to the modern audio media world, the MP 3100 HV has all the bases covered.

Analog and digital sections are not only separated internally via i-Coupler, but even have their own mains supplies – especially worthwhile with such excellent components.

Overwhelming sound

The MP 3100 HV’s sonic fingerprint is essentially the same as that of its predecessor: immense musical perfection, expressed in tremendous accuracy and precision, clarity and attention to detail, accompanied by emotional charisma and a colorful richness of a kind rarely experienced.

In addition, due to the oversizing of all assemblies, there is a casual ease and control even in more complex, orchestral passages, which makes the technically perfect presentation incredibly relaxing. This characterizes the superior quality of the



▲ The drive is decoupled and suspended at three points, while the MP 3000 antecedents remain visible in places.

presentation: Cara Dillon's voice hangs in the room, her delicate body becomes almost visible. Due to the organic, naturalistic and holistic approach, it is easy to forget that this device is actually a device: details are served in the overall context, never as an analytical end in itself.

The sound – especially when used with adequate playing partners such as the Accoustic Arts amplifiers or, of course, the T+A PA 3100 HV integrated amplifier and B&W 800 D3 speakers – is stable, powerful, open, solid AND superb.

Like every component of the HV series, the new MP looks powerful, solid and superb too: this is achieved not only by the lavish use of materials, but also by the enormous smoothness of the controls, multiple levels of clocking and jitter elimination, as well as a discrete, fully symmetrical and top class output stage thanks to the high-voltage (HV) power supply from which these models take their suffix.

Throw the MP 3100 HV any challenges – the dynamics of Yello, string ensembles or female voices seemingly on the emotional edge of nervous breakdown, even in HD resolution – and it rises to them as if with a hidden smile of disdainful ease. Could we find any weaknesses? Well, only two, and one is the 14-second disc-reading time before the machine is ready for playback – slow when compared to that of a pure CD player, but not at all so for an SACD machine!

The second is even more minor, and is directly related to the weight of 26 kilograms – about the same as many another brand's power amplifiers – as well as

being something we noted when reviewing the MP 3000. When you're parking this colossus on the equipment stand, a few more millimeters of 'ground clearance' wouldn't go amiss to let you get your fingers out of the way.

Yes, pathetic – we know. But that's how hard we've had to struggle to come up with something to complain about! Even the Control App, the handling tool of choice ahead of the supplied FD 100 radio remote control, worked well for us on an iPad – and even at the highest level of audio good app integration is far from being a given.

So is the MP 3100 HV really that could. Well, we were amused to see a near-constant procession of other editors carrying CD and SACD stacks walking down the corridor and disappearing into the listening room during their lunch breaks. Why do you think that was?

A special offer

This new "omnivore" from T+A is far from cheap, and your chances of a special offer are pretty much nil. But sometimes a device impresses even us professionals so deeply that it's hard to avoid the feeling of witnessing something very special.

This is the master of all classes, and whether listening to CD, SACD, radio, streaming or external digital sources, anyone who calls the MP 3100 HV their own can be sure that they have realized a dream in the enjoyment of music.

In this way, even 13,500 euros can still be a bargain for some. Beati possidentes (happy are the possessors)!

Tom Frantzen

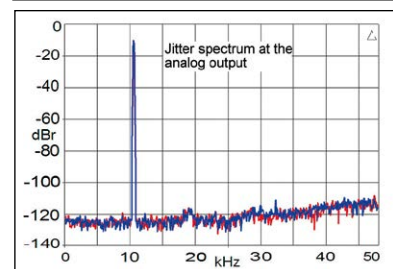
T+A MP 3100 HV



around 13500 €
 Dimensions: 46 x18 x52 cm (WxHxD)
 Warranty: 3 years
 Contact: T+A
 Phone: +49 5221 76760
 www.ta-hifi.de/

This fascinating device of superlatives can do everything and sounds supernatural. The price is put into perspective when you consider that you get a CD player, SACD player, DAC, tuner and network players, in a complete package that is currently almost unbeatable. Absolutely world class.

MEASUREMENT RESULTS



Signal-to-noise ratio Digital Zero	110.6 dB
Quantization S/N ratio 0 dBFS	96.3 dB
Converter linearity at -90 dB	0.1 dB
Output resistance Cinch	114 Ω
Output voltage RCA 0 dBFS	2.3 V
Output resistance XLR	280 Ω
Output voltage XLR 0 dBFS	4.5 V
Distortion factor at -60dBFS	0.2 %
Jitter	4.1 ns
Deviation from fs	28.2 ppm
Reading time	14 s
Power consumption Stby/ Btr	<2 W/30 W

LAB COMMENTS: What can we say? Perfect – with only a still-acceptable disc reading time of 14 seconds worthy of comment.

FEATURES

Remote control (and App), full CD/SACD and PCM/DSD functionality, FM/DAB+/Internet radio, Bluetooth, streaming service access, all popular formats and digital inputs

STEREO -TEST

SOUND QUALITY CD	100%
SOUND QUALITY SACD	100%
SOUND QUALITY STREAMER	100%



▲ Heart and mind, what more could you ask for? CD/SACD, symmetrical and unbalanced outputs, a network player and a superlative DAC – it even has physically separated digital and analog power supplies.