

煮酒論英雄：Audio Note Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister 合併式擴音機

HiFi音響 review

No. **454**

四月號 • April 2024
www.hifireview.com.hk



《音響版 + 視聽空間 + 音樂版》：HK\$55
電子版月刊：US\$4.99



Meishu Phono 300B
Kapellmeister



魅力與誘惑盡在細節之中

Audio Note

Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister

旗艦合併式擴音機

文 | 陳海川

Audio Note Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister Flagship Vacuum Tube Integrated Amplifier

“God is in the details’... this saying makes me want to change it to, ‘Allure and temptation are in the details!’”

“The Meishu Kapellmeister is not a straightforward extension of Meishu Tonmeister, but another branched variation. It also signifies that Audio Note is confident in developing the Meishu's fully-fledged platform into a top-end integrated amp.”

“[Audio Note] wanted to push Meishu to another level, and [their research and development engineer] Darko Greguras accepted the challenge as a very serious and personal mission. ...[He] hoped to have a top-end amp that can be used in a smaller space, and a top-end integrated amp at that!”

"Audio Note's senior R&D engineer Andy Grove assisted in designing a dedicated power transformer specifically for this important part of the circuit. Then, it is newly improved and paired with Audio Note's own AN-Perma 50% nickel steel core output transformer.The circuit is entirely hand-made with silver with hard-wired connections, and treated solid-wood plywood is used as the circuit substrate."

Audio Note's attenuator is self-made with independent Tantalum film resistors and 36 progressive levels. It is a set of high-end audiophile attenuators that feel solid and sound refined when you twist the dial. Equipped with XLR balanced inputs, the homemade pure silver transformer serves the XLR balanced input coupling, and the left and right channels are each hidden in two metal shielding drums."

"As for the highlight of this amp, the MM phono stage occupies over 20% (one-fifth) of the area of the chassis. It is on par with the M8 Phono pre-amp."

"With the M8-grade tube phono pre-amp, as soon as it starts playing, the difference in airiness, liveliness, viscosity and temperature is astonishing. It's like upgrading to another more advanced system."

- River Chan



300B Audio Aesthetics Elevated to an Artistic Level

"..... Overall, I think the Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister is in a distinguished class of its own with its own unique musical aesthetic, and its performance can be classified as a masterpiece. Its tone emanates Audio Note's signature beauty."

"Using the Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister to savour first-class vinyl records from forty years ago, the pure analogue flavour without a hint of anything digital, the fine and silky smooth, lyrical and picturesque scenery painted by the music, the elegant sound of the string ensemble intoxicated me as soon as I heard it! ... The one-of-a-kind, powerful allure of this set of Audio Note has pushed the warmth of the LP record that I have treasured for forty years to its peak."

"The sound of Nat King Cole reproduced by this Audio Note set was distinctive. The way his singing was vividly "resurrected" was simply unforgettable. The rich, natural, elegant, and romantic, relaxed yet lively vocals made me feel I was listening to the most beautiful mono recording of male vocals I have ever heard. The stereo recording even made me dance. It was utterly delicious from beginning to end!

"In Violin Romances (recorded in the 1970s), the beautiful and romantic violin tones were very pleasing to the ear. Audio Note's signature timbre made Beethoven's two romantic pieces in G and F majors exponentially more romantic. Beautiful melodies revealing deep emotions flowed everywhere."



"Pepe Romero's classical guitar accompanied by the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra, channelled through Audio Note's signature romantic cosy tone and musical ambiance, made this melodious and intoxicating concerto of colourful Spanish landscape paintings simply marvellous!"

"Listening to the 1965 recording of [Jacqueline de Pré playing Elgar: Cello Concerto] on the EMI classical LP this time, the cello's poignancy index has grown again several-fold. The musical picture of player and cello playing as one is vivid; it felt so real that I really saw her sitting in front of me playing between a pair of Audio Note speakers... Listening to this piece through this Audio Note set, the powerful infectiousness of the music made the scenes from the movie [Hilary and Jackie] keep popping up in my mind."

"In Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, ...the good dynamic contrast between forte and pianissimo is enough to express the appeal of this piano concerto. The smooth and sonorous sounds of the piano flowed like a continuous stream of beautiful notes."

"In Nojima Plays Liszt, ... what I heard was a vivid, pleasant, melodious, and vital piano sound... The conclusion is that the designers of Audio Note have elevated the 300B audio aesthetics to an artistic level!"

- Sam Ho

Unique charm, value that cannot be measured with money

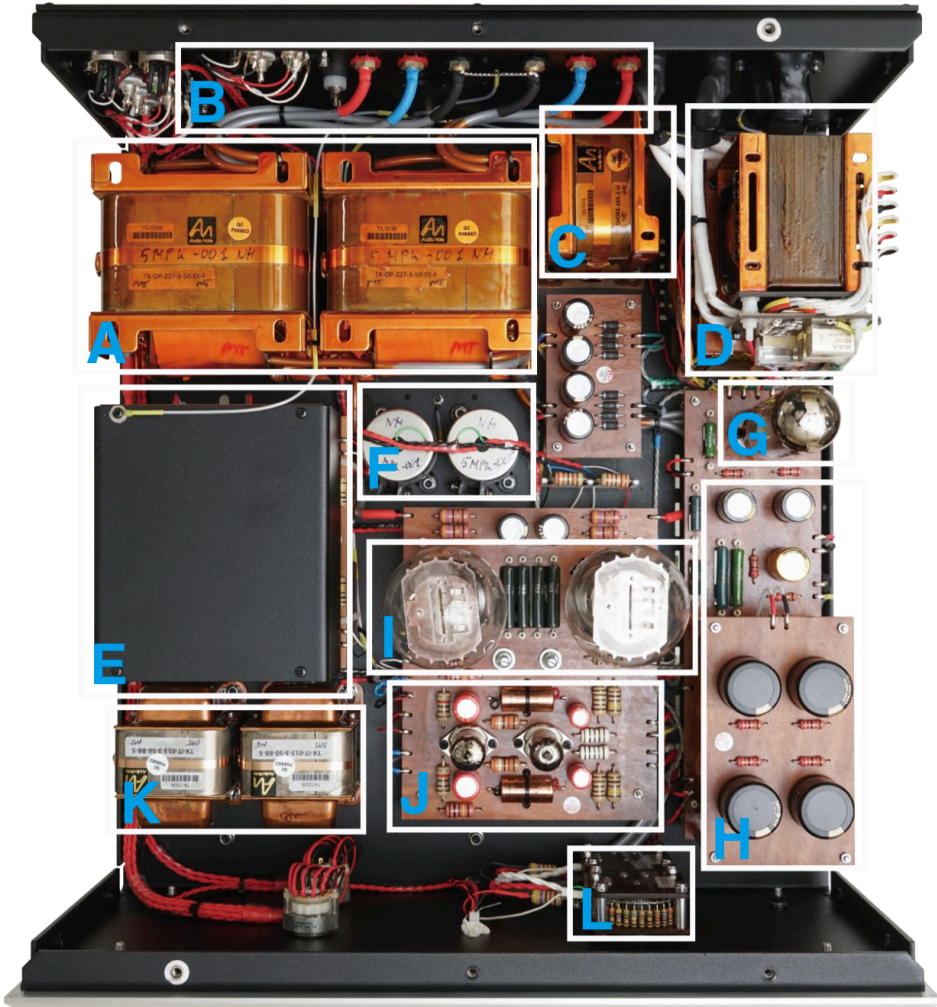
".....At the end of 2019, the author listened to the Meishu Line 300B Tonmeister. ...The pure and thick tone and musicality created by this integrated amp is unique and charming. The kind of music magic is the kind that makes people not want to leave their seats. ... Its sound is unique, and its music tugs at your heartstrings that you can't help but wish to keep listening."

"Objectively speaking, I would describe this Meishu as an integrated amp that is easy to play and easy to sound good. Under the right conditions and circumstances, and with a little effort added, it will likely be a quick and easy way to enjoy music and good sound. "

"I have listened to various types of musical instruments and vocal recordings. Its tone is indeed intoxicating, and its infectious appeal even more extraordinary. From the moment this amp sings the first line, you will feel as though you have been possessed, and you will put everything aside for the time being, listen with your ears perked and attentively until the last note."

"Strong personality, pure but not harsh, ... strong sense of life in the sound, human vocals that have flesh and blood."

- Chung Yi





Superb sound quality, enjoying my music to the fullest!

"When you open the cover, what you see in front of you is a super hefty Audio Note transformer wound with pure silver. The sheer size of each transformer is scarily large. They are neatly arranged, and their wiring is tidy and meticulous.All of this shows the extraordinary artisanal design, and the exquisite workmanship took my breath away."

"Rich emotions, absolute humanity, the singer's skills, spontaneous natural beauty without any artificiality, fully showing the singer's personal style and strength, 100% engaged, not merely high-resolution but an affective performance, with every lyric so touching that it made the listener surge with emotion. Everything and anything, in the musical realm of the 300B, is an incurable musical addiction."

"Audio Note is the cream of the crop when it comes to 300B [valves]. The addictive power it creates has been near impossible to resist despite my many years of experience in the world of hi-fi."

"Various classical musical instruments tested the accuracy of the audio setup. Naturally for the Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister, this is of course not a problem. The strings and piano also add a lot of lustre, and silky melodious smoothness. It's hard to stop listening."

"Good Morning Little School Girl was full of charm. When I picture it in my mind, I felt like I could smell the smoke coming from Muddy Waters. The real sense of immersion in the scene was exactly what it should be."

"Through the Meishu Phono 300B Kapellmeister's interpretation, the unique personal styles of world-class jazz singers were restored 1:1. There was no pretentiousness, no artificial elements added, and the songs lingered in my mind for days. I have listened to them many times, but I still enjoy them and listen to them time and again."

"[George Lam's song is] almost a song that I grew up with. As I listened, a young and energetic George Lam was dancing and singing in front of me with big lungs... While listening to the LP, I truly forgot that I was testing equipment; I was sincerely enjoying the music and forgetting myself."

"There are too many conclusions to draw. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to listen to this extraordinary 300B integrated amplifier."

Thomas Wang