



ηΧΟΣ

ΕΝΘΕΤΟ
52 ΣΕΛΙΔΩΝ
IN-CAR
GPS & ΔΙΑΣΚΕΔΑΣΗ



Bulls eye

ΣΤΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΟΡΑΣ ΤΗΛΕΟΡΑΣΗΣ, HOME CINEMA ΚΑΙ ΣΤΕΡΕΟΦΩΝΙΚΩΝ!

ΣΥΓΚΡΙΤΙΚΗ ΔΟΚΙΜΗ
DVD PLAYER με 1080p

ΔΟΚΙΜΕΣ: BERNSTEIN ΛΑΜΠΑΤΗ ΒΑΣΗ ΓΙΑ iPod,
TERRATEC WEB RADIO, SAMSUNG BD-PT400 BLU-RAY,
HIGH-END: SONUS FABER, CAYIN, YAMAHA CLASSIC,
PRIMA LUNA, TANNOY, MARTIN LOGAN, ROISTER,
ΣΥΝΕΝΤΕΥΞΕΙΣ:
Κωνσταντίνος Β., Katie Melua, Μύρων Μιχαηλίδης

ΣΥΓΚΡΙΤΙΚΗ ΔΟΚΙΜΗ
ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑΤΑ HOME CINEMA
FRONT SURROUND



PrimaLuna

ProLogue Eight

ARTICLE BY: LEFTERIS XENOS



IMPORTED BY Aquarius HiFi
IMPORTED BY 210.8834.718
PRICE € 2.250
SCORE (of 5) 4,68 ★★★★★



Moonlit

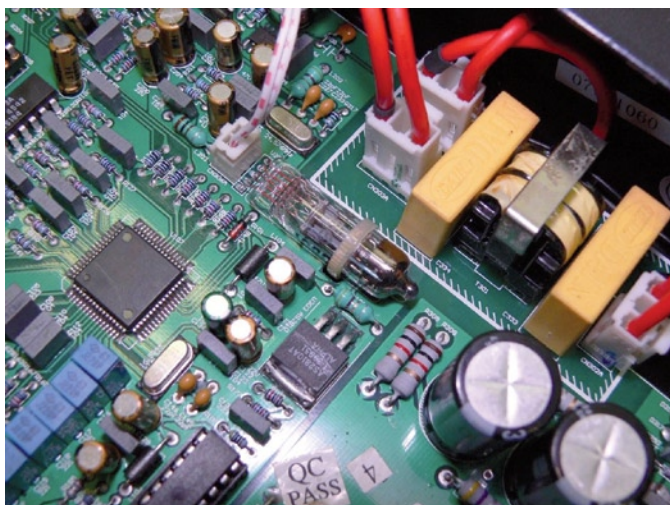
When a company not only wins the “best buy” title, but maintains it for a series of years, it is obvious that they have a well hidden and successful recipe, capable of hypnotizing everybody and creating a sea of enthusiastic supporters. This is PrimaLuna, and this is the debut on the world of their not entirely digital reproduction.

How can anybody forget the hype created by PrimaLuna approximately three years ago, when they managed to make the entire world *literally* talk about them and their exquisite vacuum tube amplifiers? As far as I'm aware, they are one of the first companies able to trust a Chinese company with production and assembly, while keeping quality control, design and marketing to Western standards. The result?

A series of vacuum tube amplifiers that could sell for twice as much money or more, and still be on top in comparative tests, whether it is in our magazine, or in other specialized magazines throughout the world. Would I be exaggerating to say that the new generation of Hi-Fidelity enthusiasts, avidly looking for an affordable alternative solution for sound, got introduced to the world of vacuum-tubes through PrimaLuna? In any case, the point is that PrimaLuna has earned our trust and appreciation, two very valuable assets, which are extremely useful in this industry, especially now that they venture into the world of digital reproduction. Therefore, please welcome the ProLogue Eight CD player, a worthy child of the famous ProLogue family. Obviously, you will have to be prepared for technological breakthroughs and fresh ideas, since the word “conventional” has been erased from the PrimaLuna's vocabulary.

FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

At first glance, the ProLogue Eight is not very different from the other ProLogue models. With the output tubes placed in the front, and the sizable power supply transformers located immediately behind the tubes, the misunderstanding is bound to happen. Its digital nature is revealed in all its glory as soon as we get closer to the anodized aluminum faceplate, and find the existence of the ProLogue Eight's loading tray, LED display, and four control buttons of the transport. In general, the ProLogue Eight's build is as sturdy as any other ProLogue component, with plenty of attention paid to details. Now, there



What you see is Primaluna's solution for low clockjitter. It refers to an approach with code name "SuperTubeClock" which replaced the typical solid state oscillator with a little triode tube which with his frequency oscillation reclocks the output of the sample rate converter and the dac.

are a lot of you, and for good reasons, who will wonder about the relation between the oldest amplifying element (the tube) and a digital music source. Here is the explanation: immediately following the digital-analogue converter (DAC) of any CD player is the "analogue section." There, among others, the analogous deep-pass filter is installed, which aims in eradicating the sampling frequency and any distortion signals the DAC produces. Immediately after that, there is another stage, called the "isolation stage," entrusted with the task of isolating the player from the preamplifier, while maintaining the correct adjustment of composite resistances in order to achieve the maximum voltage transfer. Usually, quality operational amplifiers are used for this task, while certain more exotic solutions will also use tubes. The Prologue Eight belongs to the second category. As a result, there is a single 12AX7 and 12AU7 in each channel which make up the output stage. The two larger tubes in back are 5AR4 tubes which serve as the rectification stage in the power supply unit and are accompanied by a pair of Nichicon capacitors. In addition, it should be stated that the design of the player is dual mono.

At the heart of the digital section we find two Burr-Brown chipsets: the SRC-4192, which performs the upsampling of the digital signal received from the transport, which is then sent to the PCM-1792 converter, at a 192 kHz/24 bit form. Then, the converter applies 8x oversampling by using an integrated digital filter.

The interesting features do not stop here. PrimaLuna has applied their own exclusive clocking device: the SuperTubeClock™. This clocking device replaces the typical solid state oscillator with a mini triode vacuum tube, whose oscillation frequency re-clocks the digital signal in both the transport exit and the DAC. PrimaLuna promises an extremely low amount of clock jitter, which as a result, leads to a better transitional response and increased musicality.



SOLID FOUNDATION
Λαγκαρίδου 86-88, Καλλιθέα, 210.9570778, 6974.826442

TEST: VACUUM-TUBE CD PLAYER



BORN TO WIN

I must admit that I was extremely anxious to evaluate the sound of the Prologue Eight. After experiencing the overthrows and upheavals Primaluna is capable of causing, I wanted to define its classification with as much accuracy as possible. For this reason, I requested from Hegel the CD4A Mk2, which is currently the best player in the €1,500 – €3,000 category in our magazine's tables. Of course, I did not suffice to that, since I already had warmed up in the rack two top reference players: the Sony SCD-XA900ES, and the expensive Nagra CDP. From there on, the Nagra PL-L vacuum-tube preamplifier0 supplied the signal to the YBA amps of our reference system, which then powered the large and very revealing speakers ATC SCM70.

I am a person of the first impressions, which happen to be not only vivid, but durable in time. For this reason, I started my musical cohabitation with the PL8 (it was sent burned in with approximately 500 hours) relieved from the tension of the comparative hearing, which would follow later on. For a significant amount of time, more than scheduled initially, I enjoyed listening to music. The Prologue Eight manages to win the experienced listener with the highly liquid, musical, liberated and sufficiently realistic character. It's missing nothing: neither the extent, or articulation, or analysis, or dynamic consistency. It is a complete result, enriched with finesse and a sophisticated atmosphere. As a result, those of you who are looking for a quality player with a variety of audiophile characteristics, and do not wish to trouble yourselves too much, should stop reading here and purchase a Prologue Eight as soon as possible. I guarantee you that you will enjoy it. However, if you are an even more avid enthusiast and wish to look further, I'm certain that you will evaluate the amount of conclusions that resulted from the competition with the top players stated above.

The one thing I have to state, with as much seriousness as I can afford to, is that the Prologue Eight held its own with the competition imposed by the two reference players (by Sony and Nagra),

by bridging the obvious price gap. The Sony and Nagra bettered the PrimaLuna, but only by a very narrow margin, hard to be identified by the average audiophile. In areas such as analysis, presentation of micro details and vivid representation of melodic lines, the Nagra CDP is top game, with a noteworthy competition imposed by Sony, despite the slight lack of mass presented.

The most realistic comparison was made with Hegel, where the result was the verification of two completely opposite philosophies. Choose between exuberance, sharp dynamic ranges and rich musicality (PrimaLuna), against pureness, frightening directness and "pointy" sibilant features (Hegel). Some will love the former while others may love the latter. One thing that is certain is that PrimaLuna enters the world of sources with flying colors, continuing a tradition stating that it is one of the "best buy" companies in the market. Well done.



SPECIFICATIONS

Output Level:	2V (+/- 3 dB)
Frequency Response:	20Hz-20kHz (+/- 0.5 dB)
S/N Ratio	≥96dB
Outputs:	1xLine out analog, 1xCoaxial, 1xOptical
Tube Complement:	2x5AR4, 2x12AX7, 2x12AU7
Dimensions:	(DxHxB): 38x30,5x46,5 cm
Weight:	11,5 kg