

[Review] Caesar, Bellini, Callas and Norma Revo IPA-140



I often see cases where seemingly unrelated events have a stream and later create a constant story. Even if you don't necessarily borrow the genre of mystery, you can find a lot of surprisingly interesting connections with a little interest. While meeting the Norwegian Levo IPA-140, I found this jow and personally enjoyed it. Far away, in 58 BC, tribal quarrels took place in the region of Gallia, now France. If this spread, it would have triggered the Germanic invasion, and the area could have been passed over. Rome was not in a position to watch the expansion of the Germanic expansion like Cheolcheon Jisoo. Eventually, Caesar leads the army and begins a subdue operation. After seven years of war, the region of Gaul was brought to Rome and new history began. In the meantime, this Caesar later wrote The Conqueror of Galia, and a note there after 2,000 years passed, and it caught the eye of an Italian composer. The contents are like this. At that time, a priestess who led a special sect in the Gaulic region shared the taboo love with the Roman governor who came to the occupying forces, and even the Goddess was joined to form a complex triangular relationship. It contains serious contents such as taboo or military occupation, religion, priests and Shinto, but basically maintains a romantic melodrama. And the priestess's name is Normada.



Vincenzo Bellini, who made this work a Belcanto opera, was in fact unable to see Norma's success at the time. Later, so 100 years after the premiere, it was just an ordinary opera until the legend of Maria Callas appeared. However, when he met Callas, the work became more and more popular, and became popular repertoire by Joan Sutherland and Montserrat Cabae. But it doesn't play very often compared to fame. This is because it requires too difficult techniques. Therefore, if you say that you played Norma, you can basically acknowledge the soprano's ability. In addition, the line leading to the Gaul Expedition-Norma Opera etc. leads to a strange jow in 1987. Cremona, at the time, was used as the name of an audio maker from the home of string instruments. In fact, there are many audio studios in Italy, so the presence of the company Norma was not so great.



However, Opal Electronics saw the possibility and boldly decided to buy in 1991. After seven years of R & D he reappeared in a vertebral appearance at the <Top Audio Show> held in Milan in 1997. Isn't this a pattern similar to the one Norma once buried met with Callas and dramatically revived? Originally, what led Norma to success was the REVO series. The IPA-140 I met this time is an integrated amplifier that inherited the series. The previous one is the IPA-70. If this is a product that

produces 70W in 8 ohms, this one is a model with a specification of 140W, which is double the output. In addition, it not only increases the output, but also boasts a more confident, transparent, and high-end quality. If the 70 has a slightly introspective character, the 140 is pursuing the best quality.



Then, let's take a closer look at this machine. First, if you look at the exterior, a large volume knob in the center stands out. Certainly, the simple, functional design of the minimalism series stands out. To the right of the volume is a small switch, which combines power and selector functions. Five input stages are provided, one of which is an XLR stage. Inside, the perfect left-right symmetry, the so-called dual mono

design, stands out. Above all, the construction of a robust power supply unit is impressive. In fact, when it comes to output of about 140W, a power transformer of 3 to 400 VA is enough. But Norma is not satisfied here. That is, 400 VA class transformers are used one by one on the left and right, so one per channel. Where is that? A number of capacitors capable of passing high current are also used. Using as many as 24, and having a capacity of 70,000uF is a result that remains even after fully knowing how important the robust power supply is to an amplifier.



In fact, an object called an amp basically eats electricity and moves. Quality of electricity is also important, and stability is also a problem. Therefore, the more you invest in the power supply, the better it sounds. Therefore, it may be considered as an anti that produces only 140W, but when you actually walk through the speaker, it boasts proud driving power. Part of that comes from a bold investment in the

power sector. At this time, the City Hall wore 802 D3, a stately 3-way floor standing type from Bowers & Wilkins. In fact, although it is a product with a detachable type that has quite a power, it was not difficult to drive it with this machine. Only after a very large-sized aircraft, you can walk safely to the intermediate stage. It will be the result of a solid power method such as a strong power supply unit and an accurate dual mono.



Meanwhile, MOS-FET was used as an output element. In fact, some lovers prefer bipolar, and others like FET series. The advantage of this MOS-FET is that it has the characteristics of a vacuum tube, so it is possible to construct a signal path simply. In addition, the tone is rich in harmonics, has no exaggeration, and has some kind of warmth. This part becomes the transparent, unaffected sound background

from Norma. We'll talk about this in more detail later in the viewer. Meanwhile, the machine is provided with two options. One is phono and the other is DAC. The same is true for the IPA-70, but there is not much space available, so only one of them can be fitted. On the contrary, since this machine can insert both, this part is also attractive.



First of all, looking at the phono, there are many repertoires being released these days, called the LP Renaissance era, so there are a lot of people who want to try LP. Norma's gift can be a good match. However, while most makers simply make the phono stage provided as an option, only about MM, this phono stage has a kind of professional phono amplifier. It is made to cover the MC cartridge. We often think of two types of cartridges, MM / MC, but the impedance is really different. Therefore, this phono end was made to correspond to 4 kinds of

impedance. 100, 50, 1K, and 47K ohms are the main characters. In addition, gain adjustment is possible, so there are six steps between 34dB and 52dB. So, unless it's a very special product, you can cover most of the cartridges available on the market.



Next, when looking at the DAC side, a solid design is being made. Basically, it uses Wolfson's WM 8741 chip, and it uploads the input PCM signal to 24/192 specification. In fact, Norma is making not only amplifiers, but also sources, so it's no exaggeration to say that the core technology is being transferred here. This means that if you use the options properly, you can enjoy both phono and DAC. Conversely, those who do not need these features do not have to spend unnecessary money. In many

ways, it is reasonable. In fact, there are several speakers on display in the hi-fi club's viewing room, so I wondered what to choose. Then I picked the 802 D3, the main reason being that it has the same kind of a monitor as its kind. Therefore, it is very useful when searching for the quality, tone, and ability of a source or amplifier. In addition, it was revealed that the part of whether or not it could be driven by this unit was inclined at the same time, and in the process, it was possible to confirm the content that was transparent, warm and dynamic. For reference, the source machine used Waver's V-DAC to watch this machine, and mainly listened to the sound source contained in the tune. The list of viewing tracks is as follows.

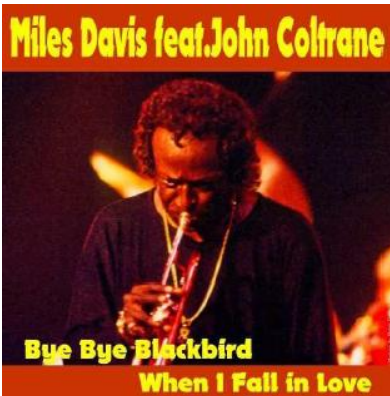
- Paganini <Violin Concerto No. 1 and 2 movements> Michael Ravine (Violin)
- Miles Davis
- Salena Jones
- Gary Moore



Michael Rabin- Paganini, Violin Concerto No. 1

Paganini, Violin Concerto No. 1-II

First of all, from Paganini. First of all, the taste and advantages of analog recording are well emphasized. It's not overly centered on resolution, but it captures the overall look and boasts rich details. Rabin's violin is elegant and beautiful. But when you need it, give it strength. If the violin is awkward, the notes may be thin or sharp, but there is no such thing here. It is not too thick. Under the proper orchestra's back-up, it looks great to hit and fall quickly. Paganini's feeling of seeking love from a woman is alive here.



Miles Davis-Bye Bye Blackbird

Bye Bye Blackbird

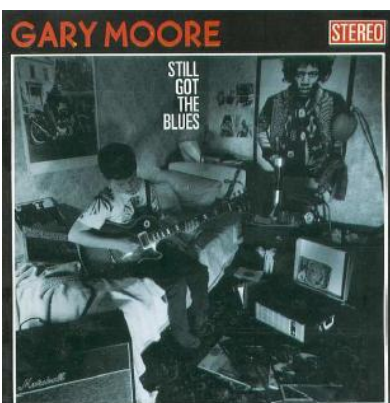
When you listen to Miles Davis, it is natural to see the distinctive mute trumpet dominating the stage. On the basis of light rhythm, only lightly rhythmic, it plays like a song. The bass line is thick and light, and the drums are played with a pleasant medium for beat. It was recorded a long time ago, but the freshness is high and the balance is excellent. In the middle, when the Coltrane comes out and advances with the distinctive blowing, even light elasticity comes out. While not too aggressive, basically elegant replay has great strength in these songs as well.



Selena Jones-Audiophile Selection

You Don't Bring Me Flowers

Then Selena Jones. As a singer expressing the mid and low range nicely, the air in the surroundings is well captured. The presence is so strong that the other instruments seem to have stepped back slightly, but the overall texture is fine. In particular, the sound of the double bass that falls deeply adds weight to the song. Relatively easy to drive the speaker, even if the volume is set around 9 o'clock, there is no problem in listening. The microdynamics' detailed portability is particularly suited to these vocal tracks.



Gary Moore- Still Got The Blues

Still Got The Blues

Finally, Gary Moore. It has a strong vocal performance and vocals that are almost like vomiting, but it takes a little breath here and comes out in a calmer form. Still, the man's spirit and passion are not compromised. The strings are added in the middle, so the organization is complicated, but there is no tangle or distortion. In the case of guitar solos, the lines that seem to dig into the chest are impressive. Medium The attack of the kick drum is added to create a more powerful sound. It would seem that even this more intense heavy metal can be played without difficulty. Overall, it has rich details and a refreshing taste, but when I needed it, I got a good

feeling of reproducing even a passionate figure.

Specifications

Inputs	4 RCA, 1 XLR Balanced, optional Phono, 1 USB DAC optional
Input impedance	47Kohm (not selected input) / 10 Kohm (selected input)
Input Configuration	Phono MM / MC, Line, Direct AV, Balanced
Output Signal	Passive Pre Out, Active Pre Out, Tape out, Subwoofer out
Output Impedance (Pre-Out)	200 ohm
Output Power	1 Binding Post pairs, accept 4mm banana plugs and fork
Frequency Response	0 Hz – 1.8 MHz (-3dB, non filtered)
Output Power	140 W RMS / 8 Ohm – 280 W RMS / 4 Ohm (each channel)
Gain	34 dB
Configuration	Dual Mono
Circulation	Solid state
Power devices	MosFet, 3 pairs for each channel
Output current available	36 A continuous, 150 A peak (per channel)
Ability to filter	72.000 uF, 12 electrical capacitors for each channel
Electric transformers	2 toroidal special audio use, 400 VA per channel
Supply	230 V AC / 50 Hz, (100V AC or 115 VAC / 50-60Hz in some country)
Dimensions (HxWxD)	110 x 430 x 365 mm, (excluding feet, knob and rear jacks)
Weight	25 Kg
Note	Stereo Integrated Amplifier fully remote controlled

Norma Revo IPA 140

Importer	SP-Audio
Importer's homepage	http://www.sp-audio.co.kr
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Purchase Inquiry	02-582-9847