

Testing Notes

Friday, July 21, 2017

Version 1.1

Testing Notes:

Magical	Superb	Great	Better	Good	Bad
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Genre	Test Track	Audeze LCD3	HIFIMAN HE1000 v1	HIFIMAN HE1000 v2	Abyss AB-1266	Focal Utopia	Abyss Phi <i>Everything from OG plus:</i>
Dubstep / Dance	Pentatonix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show me how to love Aha Basshunter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia Privjet Calvin Harris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I need your love (new) 		Deep bass, punchy, good texture. Ok instrument separation. Good mids.	Bass feels flat, but defined and accurate. Good detail and resolution. Bit of a lifeless tone. Less bass than v1 but clearer and more detailed. Good instrument separation. Good resolution.	Amazingly clear and precise. Deep Solid clean powerful impactful bass. It goes deep, it goes to the abyss. Expansive soundstage. Insane detail and resolution. Excellent micro detail.	Deep lush rich full bass. Insane detail retrieval and resolution. Excellent instrument separation. Excellent mids. Amazing micro detail and extension. Very present midrange. Fast and Accurate while still being lush and rich.	Even more detail and resolution extracted, the Phi peels back the layers of the track and present every minute subtle detail and conveys information in the track that was not previously heard. Detailed, amazing resolution, visceral bass, clear, great sound stage, great instrument separation.
Electronica	Owl City - The Bird and the Worm		Wide full bass, laid back sound.	Better detail than v1. Cleaner sound.	Extremely clean. Excessive treble, may be fatiguing, Deep solid bass.	Clean, ethereal, euphonic, excellent resolutions, detail.	Treble still a bit much but better than the original.
Trance	Gigi D'Agostini - L'Amour Roujours Alice DeeJay - Better Off Alone		Laid back, recessed, veiled. Good resolution and ok bass. Not a fun sound for this genre.	Does a much better job than v1 here. Veil is lifted, more energy and tempo. Much better tonality, becoming enjoyable. Still a dark tone and sound, bass goes deep. Good instrument separation and vocals. Great detail retrieval.	Expansive wonderful powerful sound, excellent instrument separation, great energy, meaty sound. The abyss simply dramatically excels in this genre. Clean, Detailed, Spacious, Effortless, Powerful, Authoritative, Marvelous sound.	Focused, full, lush. A bit closed in sounding compared to abyss. The lack of space adds a bit of congestion, but still excellent sounding. High energy, and great detail retrieval.	Improved vocals.
Symphonic Metal	Nightwish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She Is My Sin Over the hills and far Sleeping sun 		Veiled. Recessed vocals, recessed instruments. Muddy sound.	Clean, Clear, good bass knock. Pleasant listen. Good detail retrieval.	Fast and accurate. Sharp treble, Vocals to die for, excellent instrument separation. Precise bass. Amazing guitars.	Lush nature holds it back in this genre. Does not handle the speed well.	Everything from original abyss but with the treble tamed. Added vocal note decay.
Metal	Lacuna Coil - Breakdown Delain - Lucidity - Silhouette		Recessed, making it an easy listen. Handles complicated passages well.	Recessed, making it an easy listen. Handles complicated passages well.	Insane detail retrieval and resolution.	Forward, good detail, good energy.	Increased resolution, more body.
Metal	Disturbed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You're Mine Who Tyrant Monster Run Dehumanized Midlife Crisis 		Deep, dark. Instruments recessed. A bit veiled. Good bass, nice pressure. Hides flaws in lesser recordings.	Smooth, solid, easy to listen to. Great bass pressure. Good bass impact but could be better. Very good detail and resolution. Handles complicated passages very well. Hides flaws in lesser recordings. Veil lifted from v1. Very clean and clear. Very nice. V1 sounds muddy in comparison. Very refined sound.	Clean, highly refined, excellent resolution and detail. High energy, can become fatiguing on this type of music. Edgy/Sharp treble.	Very fun and energetic representation of the track. Great detail retrieval, gritty, grungy, meat sound. Sweet awesome bass and mids, but does not sound muddy in the slightest. Clean clear sound.	Similar to original abyss, but due to the high resolution and neutral tone of these cans it's not the most fun sounding for this genre.
Metal	Trapt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Echo Stories Disconnected (new) Repeat Offender (new) 		Deep, dark. Handles complicated passage well. Good bass.	Easy listen on complicated passages. Smooth. Full solid bass. Cleaner than v1 but v1 goes deeper. Better detail retrieval.	Nice deep solid impactful bass. Great clarity and instrument separation. On complicated passages can become fatiguing. High energy.	Highlights vocals even through complicated pieces. Great separation. Great detail retrieval. Nice solid bass. Rich natural guitars. Solid deep full rich bass.	Better listen than the original but I still prefer the utopia here.
Punk	Panic - Stall Me Panic - Oh Glory (new)		Great detail retrieval, great deep full bass. Lacks energy.	Great detail retrieval, good bass. Stumbles a bit on fast complicated bass passes. Very good	Great micro detail, good resolution, great bass. Open huge sound, great energy and power.	Full lush tones. Great resolution. Great extraction of micro detail, Smooth buttery sound. Excellent bass control. Deep,	Improved resolution, improved impact, more heft and body, improved clarity. I think it now brings it up to

			Stumbles on fast complicated bass. Sounds muddy.	listen overall. Good energy.	Handles complex bass rumbles excellently.	rich, warm, lush, powerful bass notes. Non-fatiguing fun sound.	the Utopia's performance albeit with a different tonal presentation.
Pop	Michal Jackson: • Dirty Diana • Smooth Criminal • Speed Demon (new)		Good bass, deep solid sound.	Clean, Ok bass but a bit recessed, hollow sound, clear, good detail retrieval.	Micro detail retrieval is unreal, gossamer delicate detail retrieval. Bottomless bass, Highly detailed vocals. Powerful sound. Wide open soundstage while still having massive energy and presence. Crystal clarity.	Deep, powerful, full, lush, rich bass. Forward vocals, Excellent detail retrieval, great instrument separation, great resolution.	More natural tone, better resolution, more presence in the midrange.
Rock	Trap - Bring It		Full Bodied, Lush, Dark. Deep extended bass, full range bass that blends into mids. Good Highs but lacks sparkle up top. Laid back sound.	Clear, Detailed, Great Instrument Separation. Makes the v1 sound muddy and veiled. Closer in tonality to Utopia. Tight clean bass notes on drums. More effortless sound compared to v1. Faster sound, more energetic. Good highs, more sparkle up top compared to v1.	Amazing. Insane detail retrieval. Impactful, fun, enjoyable. Extracts everything that's there in the sounds while having monstrous presences and authority.	Deep, Lush, Full Bodied. Great resolution and detail. Engaging and energetic. Smooth pleasant sound while having a lot of energy.	A more natural tone but still on the analytical side when compared to the utopia.
Classical	Anne Akiko Meyers - Vivaldi - Concerto No.2 in G minor - III. Presto		Good detail and separation, somewhat expansive soundstage.	More refined sound than v1, great micro detail and resolution, smooth sound,	Huge Soundstage, sounds like a music hall which is perfect for this genre. Powerful and lush violins, Excellent micro detail, background notes shine through when they should. Superb instrument separation, each member of the band can be clearly heard.	Good detail retrieval and resolution, very responsive to violins, small soundstage. Not very engaging.	Better instrument separation, the organic and natural tone of the notes were improved.
Classical	Taylor Davis - Tal Heights Taylor Davis - Lost Woods		Recessed sound, veiled. Good soundstage, good instrument separation. Dark sound. Mellow presentation.	Very resolving, Great instrument separation. Good soundstage. Handles complicated pieces extremely well. Expansive sound, wide bass notes. Good energy.	Massive soundstage. Excellent resolution and detail retrieval. Note decay can be noticed on these cans vs the others. Great dynamic range. Energetic. Non-Fatiguing.	Forward sounding, extremely resolving. Good instrument separation. Clarity on smaller notes is amazing. Throws a lot of detail at you. May be overwhelming for some. A bit analytical / clinical.	More instruments can be clearly heard where they could not before. Amazing. Improved instrument separation and resolution.
Opera / Vocal	Andrea Bocelli - Con te Patiro Sarah Brightman - Time To Say Goodbye Pentatonix - Hallelujah (new) Pentatonix - How Great Thou Art (new)		Good overall, Good flat male vocals. Sound is a bit laid back, lacks presence and energy. Good female vocals. Overall a good sound but nothing spectacular.	Good overall, Male vocals have a bit of a sharp bite. Good instrument separation. Female vocals sound smooth, soft and delicate. Good detail retrieval. A bit clinical in the top end.	Great micro detail retrieval, Powerful sound, nuances in male vocals are amazing. Great extension in notes, great instrument separation. Clean and powerful top end. Powerful rich female vocals. Magical blend of the two. Very expansive presentation with a bit of emphasis on the treble.	Great detail retrieval, good micro detail but not as much as Abyss. Excellent natural and neutral sound. Powerful male vocals. Clean powerful top end. Perfect female vocals, rich, natural, powerful, smooth, delicate. The best I've heard female and male vocals blended. Personal and immediate presentation, not expansive like the abyss but sounds more tonally neutral and accurate.	Natural, Clean, Extremely wonderful and controlled treble and upper registers. Powerful and delicious female vocals, even surpassing the Utopia. Wow.
Acoustic	Trapt - Bring It (Acoustic)		Deep lush acoustic tones, clear, detailed. Good instrument separation. Very pleasing sound.	Very Clear, precise sound, a bit analytical when compared to the natural sounding v1. For critical listening the v2 is better, but I find the v1 more enjoyable here.	Extremely Clear, precise, accurate, fast, solid and detailed, but not in an analytical way. May be overwhelming for acoustic music but still highly enjoyable presentation.	Deep lush acoustic tones while simultaneously being clear, precise and non-analytical. Forward sounding. Front Row. Highly resolving. Highly Enjoyable. Euphoric.	Micro Detail retrieval substantially improved. Note decay stretches on for miles. More natural tones make it less fatiguing.
Misc (new)	Katy Perry - E.T. (Noisia Vocal Remix)				Excellent presentation, clean, clear and precise. Controls the bass heavy and content dense sections of the track effortlessly. Vocals and midrange a bit recessed compared to Utopia.	Excellent presentation, silky smooth and rich vocals. Good balance and blend of the entire audio band. Loses a bit of control during the bass heavy and content dense sections of the track.	Similar performance to original with improved vocals.