

REIMYO CAT-777II and KAP-777 Amplifier System

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In the last issue, I have written about the front cover story of the Japanese Tuning Master, Mr. Kiuchi's very influential products including the Harmonix Tuning Devices as well as the Reimyo new Pre-amplifier. In the May issue, I have introduced the Reimyo CAT-777 and CDT-777 CD Transport and DAP-999 D/A Converter. Now I am writing about this CAT-777II and KAP-777 system, why? I forgot to explain this in my last review.

It was because that one day I chatted with Jacky of Stereo Kingdom on the phone and he told me that a British audio reviewer visited HK right before his retirement and he bought a pair of Salon2 home from him. It was kind of special for an old English man to come all the way to Hong Kong to buy the audio system. Furthermore, he has also been working at the industry as a free-lance audio reviewer that made it a lot more unusual.

I have no doubt in the Revel flagship model Salon2 speaker system. I just wondered what amplifier system was used to drive the Salon2 driving this reviewer to make such an emotional decision of buying the speaker right away?

I am really interested to find this out because this speaker system is kind of easy to drive but since there are many drivers in this speakers and the crossover network is also quite complicated; it would require an excellent design of amplifier to drive it well. Therefore, my guess would be the Mark Levinson big amplifier system as this brand is now under Harman HPAV Group – from the same “family” to my surprise, Jacky told me that he was actually using the Reimyo CAT-777II & KAP-777 amplifier system in his demo. Using this Japanese made high end amplifier



system to drive the famous American high end loudspeakers with excellent performance, being recognized by a serious audiophile as well as an experienced British hifi reviewer; and helping him to make the decision in buying a pair of loudspeakers for his retirement. It is really something special! Thus, I rushed to "Stereo Kingdom" and listened to the system. Then, I loaned the Reimyo system back to our studio for more listening.

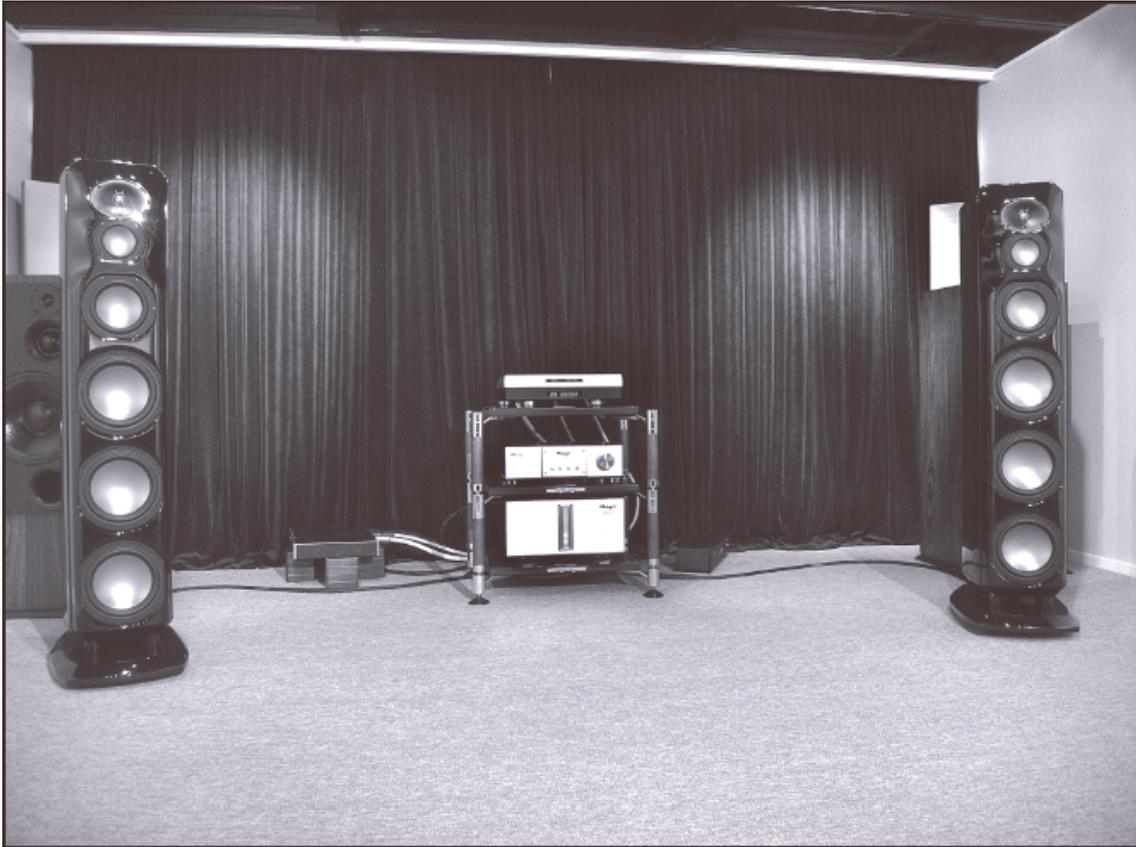
Now, let's review the history of the main theme of this article - the Reimyo CAT-777II and KAP-777 amplifier system.

In fact, the last generation of the CAT-777II is the CAT-777 and it was well-known amongst the audiophiles in 2008. In 2010, the new CAT-777II was launched and exhibited at the Munich Hi Fi Show. It has drawn great attention by the serious audiophiles. The cosmetic of the CAT-777II is presentable, and its internal design of symmetrical balance, individual pre-amplification circuitry for left and right channels are respectively placed in its individual left & right internal chassis. The circuitry and design of both channels are exactly symmetrical. Both channels utilizes the ECC82 and EC802s tube produced by JJ each 1 pc. The power supply is located In the central chassis compartment, and it occupies half size of the pre-amplifier. Furthermore, there is also a symmetrical design for the left and right channels – each channel features an R Core transformer as well as a Philips 6X4 Tube for rectifier; connecting with capacitors, resistors etc. for individual power supply to the left and right channels.



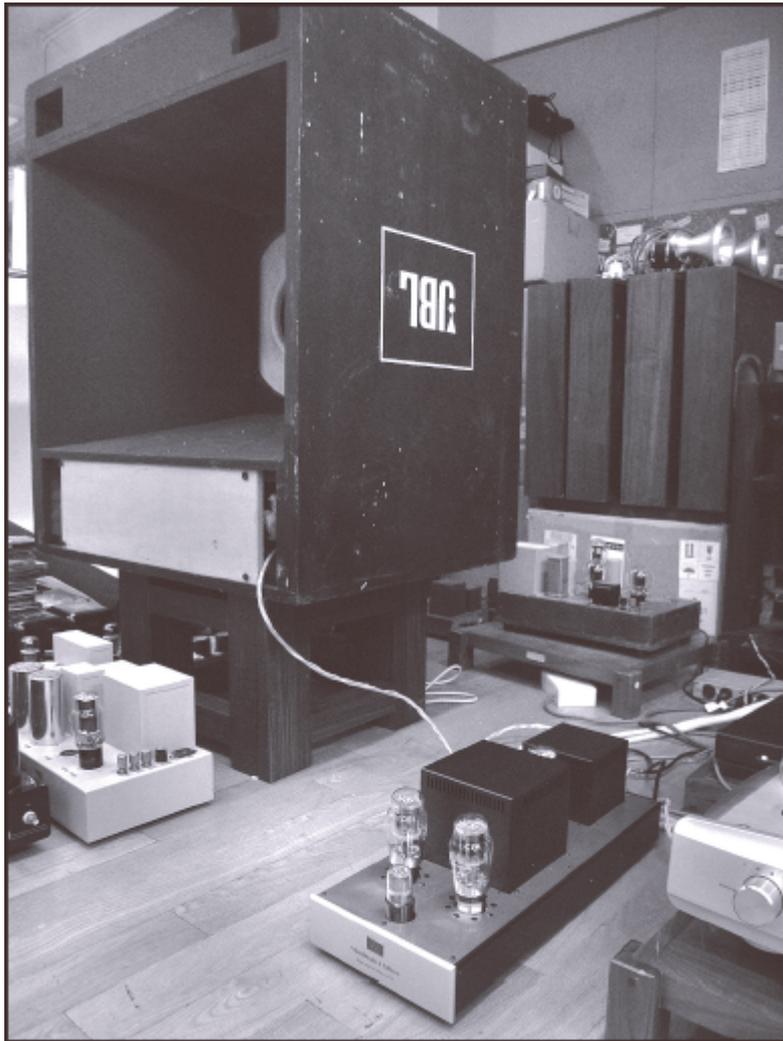
KAP-777 is a brand new product by Mr. Kiuchi launched in this year; this amplifier utilizes Single MOSFET power transistor for amplification which is completely different from Mr. Kiuchi's last State-of-the-Art, PAT-777 utilizing the 300B tube. Looking at the cosmetic design of the KAP-777, it could be the most high end style of all the Reimyo products. The metal work on the KAP-777 is similar to the CAT-777II and the selected components are also best of the best. Its internal design is also in symmetrical for both the left and right channels and it is so heavy that it weighed 33.0 kgs. The rated power output is 200W (8 ohms) RMS per channel.

When Stereo Kingdom moved up to their new showroom at the 14th floor, I still remember the time I came here, and listened to their demo system consisting of the CDT-777 CD transport + DAP-999 D/A converter, the amplifier system were



also the CAT-777II and KAP-777 but the loudspeakers were the tower ATC SCM-100SL. This time, the set up was the Playback Designs MPS-5 CD Player and the loudspeakers were, of course, the Revel Salon2. Great! I could really experience why this Reimyo amplifier system captivated the British reviewer decided to buy the pair of American loudspeakers.

Wow! I was shocked by the sound; its openness of all frequency range, the soundstage is so wide and deep, and also so clear and transparent..... Of course, the detailed source delivered from the Playback MPS5 to the CAT-777II for extremely high clarity and transparent reproduction, and playback through the Salon2 for true sound reproduction effortlessly. It was just like a true HD musical scene right in front of my eyes. In fact, it was not the only thing surprised me. The most exciting fact was that no matter what type of music I played through this system, they sounded so lively, transparent, dynamic and musical that it would even make you move along with the music naturally. Furthermore, it was the first time I could really hear the rich deep bass of the Salon2, as well as its high density on all frequency range. It was the most impressive demo of the Salon2 I have ever heard. Of course, a big thanks to the KAP-777 providing continuous powerful drive effortlessly with excellent dynamic range, and its superb control in all frequencies incomparably with good balance.



Conclusion

Having the opportunity to listen to this amplifier at our studio for sometime..... It is so detailed and clear, powerful and dynamic plus the extremely musicality and natural sound character, it has captivated me (a serious audiophile as well as an experienced audio reviewer) would like to own this Reimyo CAT-777II and KAP-777 amplifier system for the rest of my life!