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## Perreux Audiant 80i

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**SPARK**  
 in the dark

It's been a few years since I last heard **Perreux** amplification. The memory is still accurate, however: it was the SM2 preamp and 2150 power amp, which drove superbly fantastic coupled a pair of **Rogers LS3/5A**. I remember also excellent sonic results with the SM3 pre and 3150 power amp. I must also say that, inexplicably, this New Zealander had not received in Italy the

great success that would certainly deserved given the quality of profuse that can be considered without a doubt an absolute level. Then you will understand my curiosity, but also the desire to see in person, after all these years, as the Perreux can be changed. Well, has not changed at all. The quality is there and there is still a great deal.

Today we will talk about the Audiant 80i. It is an integrated amp with eighty watts which also includes, as is now commonly used for the amps that are observed, an internal digital converter, and a MM phono section of great value. The cost of 2,900.00 euro puts him in a very crowded segment of the market and fierce competition. The fact is that the sound characteristics of Perreux Audiant 80i are so exceptional that one could speak easily of hi-end, namely that particular range of quality which is part of the vertex absolute with regard to the audio equipment. Just a few seconds of listening to be convinced to be in front of a car that stands head and shoulders above the normal expectation of quality offered by the type of equipment at this price. The Perreux Audiant 80i allows, therefore, the input Olympus hi-end not only for the detection but also for listening allocations among the most comprehensive imaginable and to the technical characteristics of great interest. In this case the price of the Audiant 80i becomes very competitive and its cost / quality touches a value of high importance.





The power of this Perreux, as I said, is 80 watts into 8 ohms, 130 into 4 ohms become well. But it is the combination of the signal / noise ratio of 105 dB at 80W and the damping factor of 400 that determines and implements the soul sound of this integrated bell'amp: intertransiente great silence and extreme speed. So to speak instead of the countless amenities, we say that the inputs are five and four digital line, including a selectable input HT loop dedicated to a pre audio / video, and a MM phono input with a gain of 40dB. You read that right. The five digital inputs, including a USB to asynchronous, betray the presence of an internal converter 24-bit 96 kHz ESS Technology ES9006 Sabre Reference DAC.

Given what I have said so far, do not be surprised if in the Perreux Audiant 80i, despite the size that can be considered slim, weighs twelve kilograms. Furthermore, the lines of its front are very slender thanks to the adoption of a sophisticated design which provides a horizontal division of the front half in brushed aluminum while the other, the lower one, of dark color, turns out to be a touch-screen in which have entered the written backlit command service. The only thing that remains physically exposed so visible is the large volume knob that, practically, it is as high as the front itself. The supplied remote control allows any type of intervention from the listening comfortable being completely full. But not only the design, there is also the substance. Try to linger on the details of the frame of Audiant and be captivated by the aluminum top and satin perfectly the particular system to access the inside of the amplifier. Once opened, it is the large toroidal transformer to steal the show and most of the space available! Not to mention the two pairs of silicone dual mosfet high power Toshiba 2SJ201 - 2SK1530 and noiseless relay input selection.

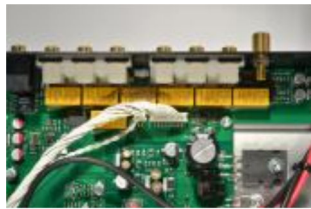
One more thing that makes me sympathetic further the Perreux Audiant 80i is his logo. Printed in front and deeply etched into the top. This is the design of a pulse signal in phase, in essence similar to the logo of ReMusic however constituted by a pulse signal but in antiphase.

Given the rather small size, entered into the system and the existing mobile audio Perreux this is incredible ease. Actually the amp almost disappears from view and is even more surprising loud voice that emanates from the speakers. Among other things, not very hot, even after very long use so put it in a shelf of low height is not a recommended practice. The only advice I would suggest is to put the Audiant of support damping because the large transformer vibrates enough though, in fact, is felt only when turning but produces absolutely no noise on the speakers also maximum volume and MM phono section.

Start listening test with the use of the full set of cables **White Gold** Reference Series Professional Stradivarius proved faithful and reliable companions for the Audiant 80i that was able to deploy all of his performance as well taking advantage of the high quality of these Italian cables.

I was just tidying some discs of Sheffield Lab, so take advantage of it and listen to Pat Coil, a fusion of high artistic value with the use of an acoustic piano. I could tell you of the excellent dynamic that is emitted with energy, I could tell you about the detail that paints a sound rich in detail, I could tell the timbre of the instruments that approach in an impressive manner to those of the instruments heard live, I could tell you about the sensitivity of the harmonic outline, I could ... but the fact is that all these characteristics are expressed simultaneously with the amp New Zealander, thus leading to a joy in listening that it is rarely possible to create and detect. Even the female voice recording Amanda McBroom offer the feeling of being directly impersonation. The vertical separation of the stage musical involves a lot of the listener is allowed to participate the event being recorded. The pleasure of listening at high levels and the depth of the projected image actors beyond the wall behind the plant, drawing a picture on the characteristics of three-dimensional natural unequivocal.

This performance makes me feel than is possible with the Perreux the genre classic. Mozart's *Divertimento in D major K. 136*, XRCD24 Fim Super Sound II, a recording mercilessly rich detail so that if a system could reduce you to prove just unbalanced ears like a sieve. Instead, the Perreux pulls a naturalness and a control like a true champion, the fact is that I can not believe that a "little thing" like you can get so much! The small size of the Audiant 80i is in startling contrast to a big sound, opulent and luxurious. The low frequencies are offered with excellent sound pressure even at very low volumes showing a balance in the frequency response



which has characteristics of linear homogeneity.

For verification of the quality of the internal converter of this wonderful Perreux, I decided to choose a track recorded in digital 24bit/kHz. It is a realization Velut Moon, Patrizia Laquidara & Massimo Salvagnini Quintet, *Goldfinger*. Listening through my first digital source car built with mechanical **Philips CD PRO2**, four converters **Wolfson WM 8740** preceded by an asynchronous sample rate of 192 kHz connected to the mechanical I2S protocol. Using instead my **Teac X25** as the only mechanical, exploiting the famous VRDS, and using an optical cable of good quality for the connection with the internal DAC of the ESS Perreux.

Well! I do not get to reach sound levels of my CDP, especially in the return of the body and detail. I now come to the comparison with an external DAC good quality as the **Arcam rDAC** that allows me to form a more balanced quality of the internal DAC of the Perreux. Well, the internal converter of the EES Perreux also in the spotlight for a capacity to restore a more natural sound and absolutely no bitterness. Therefore, we say that the DAC's internal Perreux can satisfy the aesthetic taste of the most experienced audiophile, especially if you use your computer as a source for listening to streaming music.

I could not fail to try the MM phono section. On this occasion I used the head **Denon DL301** (you read that right, not 103 but 301) connected to the step-up 300. Are immediately struck by the silence of the phono section of the Audiant 80i that, even at maximum volume, blow a little and you have to put your ear close to the speaker to feel a slight breeze. Listening is very nice, a mix of dynamic and refinement that does not favor one or the other parameter, creating the idea of a well designed and engineered section. In short, I believe we need to spend at least eight hundred - a thousand euro for a phono preamp of better quality.

In the light of the two accessories, ie the DAC and phono preamp, and their intrinsic value well over a thousand euro, I believe that the Audiant 80i should be considered a bargain. The quality is very high and the subject is very interesting for aesthetics and functionality. Her sound is rich, full and harmonious is definitely superior quality and allows the Perreux Audiant 80i to enter through the front door of the golden world of high-end. This integrated amplifier, built with pride in New Zealand, allows in any case to obtain performance of mold audiophile able to impress even the most experienced critical enthusiasts. In conclusion, for me the Perreux Audiant 80i is definitely a Spark in the Dark!

#### **Characteristics declared by the manufacturer:**

Power: 80W 8ohm - 130W at 4ohm

Total Harmonic Distortion: 0.002% at 1kHz

Signal / noise ratio: 105dB referred to 80W 8ohm

Damping Factor: 400 @ 1kHz 8ohm

Gain: 28dB

Analog inputs: three RCA line, an RCA phono

Input HT: a selectable

Phono input impedance: 47kohm

Gain phono: 40dB

Phono input capacity: 100pf

Volume Range:-90dB to +6 dB

Analog outputs: a pre RCA, RCA line

Analog Output Impedance: 540ohm pre line 270ohm

Digital inputs: an asynchronous USB 24/96, a coaxial, one optical Toslink

Digital Input Impedance: 75ohm

DA converter: ESS Technology ES9006 Sabre Reference DAC 24bit/96kHz

DAC Output: 1.95 V

Power consumption: 1W standby, 640W maximum power

Dimensions: 431x67x309mm (WxHxD)

Weight: 11.5 kg

**Official distributor for Italy:** Art of Music From Via Lino, 23/2 to 40134 - Bologna, tel. 347.2532215

**Price at the date of review:** 2.900,00 €

**System:** the system of Roberto "The Rock" Rocchi