

Soulution 530 Integrated Amplifier: New frontiers in nano resolution.

Translation from hifichile.com

Over the time I had the opportunity to listen to different sound systems, different set ups, different qualities and different designs. When the Soulution dealer told me about this integrated model – almost one year ago – and probably it was not the same he invited me to listen to, but I remember his comments: “Buddy, this device sounds better than any other system I have ever listened to.” In light of this, thinking we had already listened to the partner model pre-power of the 700 Soulution line, honestly I remained silent and I told myself: “He is talking too much.”

One year later I believe I should dedicate the following words to Omar and Soulution: “It is an honor for me to own the only unit which left the manufacturer – with effort and dedication. Many thanks to both of them!”

As you know, I have never had the feeling that somebody obliges me to say that this device is better than other brand and it remains my guiding principle. As I told you before, among the equipment and systems known to me, just only a few have exceeded my expectations. Please see the listed below:

Accuphase E-560 – integrated
Accuphase A65 –C2810 pre-power
DarTzeel CTH8550 – integrated
Gryphon Antileon Amp.
Kondo Ongaku – Kegon

I am mentioning these devices as they have really exceeded my expectations in many aspects. We are talking about very expensive equipment. That means that not everyone would be able to buy these devices. There are similar opinions given by the persons who listened to the devices, because you cannot deny that these devices are in many occasions engineering masterpieces. Note that Soulution is not within these potency parameters. As I have never had the opportunity to listen to the existing couples in Chile, I cannot give a correct review.

After this short introduction, I would like to come back to my device - called Soulution 530 int. It is an integrated model and it is the only existing unit in the world (yes... in the world). Despite his gigantic dimensions, it is a monophonic amplifier and a pre- in only one frame.

Absolutely, this design does not show any concessions. It is a very beautiful device. The Bauhaus design without indulging in any exaggeration whatsoever, without having handles or lights, is simple. Its construction is exactly the same as of a Swiss watch. Apparently, there are no rusty or self-tapping screws.

The technical characteristics of this system are quite long, but as practical summary, it is a dual mono amplifier, class A, which has a very high definition and a phono pre amplifier with the same lid. The design is superior as it

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integrates a source switching from 2.4 kva and a current rating of 45 amperes at the output terminals. Normally these specs are only found in household appliances or arc welders. Besides all this, bandwidth is infinite and the capacitor bank in the filtering stage is of 47,000uF. A damping factor of 10,000 – according to my opinion it is excessive – allows us to connect from a stone to a high sensitivity speaker and to move them equally quick.

It has a single knob that controls digitally all functions of the device, and only a small screen that reminds us that this is not only a sophisticated Hal 9000 integrated amplifier. Also it is fitted with balanced and unbalanced inputs, a phono input with selectable impedance and pre outputs. Besides this, you have the option of integrating a home cinema in case you want to use the amplification in the same system. With regard to the set up, we put aside my integrated reference model in order to have place for this one, and connect everything. The model 530 has already more than 3 days of running and we can give it a more intense listening, although the manufacturer tested the device for over a week at full capacity.

The first thing that draws our attention is the fact that the system checks the receiving energy and adjusts itself within the optimal parameters of operational performance. The process of control takes two minutes and various clicks within the unit. Afterwards the input is turned on in the volume previously selected and set by the manufacturer (you can modify all).

The first thing that catches the attention of this amplifier is the amount of heat dissipated, which in this case is clearly shown by the rising temperature. This is typical for the class type A. The temperature is not very high, but exceeds 37 degrees of normal listening levels. The consumption of the unit in operating mode exceeds 1kva, reaching the level of 2.4kva.

By listening some music passages, things draw attention. And previous to that, I decide to go directly to my reference source, i.e. my turntable.

After all this, the first disc to be listened to is Tango in the Night, Fleetwood Mac. But, what is happening? Is it another recording? It sounds different... I get up, start it again and take a seat. Well, there is a lot of air, much headroom, a very high dynamic range and pure music even in the weakest passages. It seems to be another disc. I am really amazed.

Then came the turn of Nirvana, Unplugged, MTV, also on vinyl. It is difficult to define how this live album should sound, but I believe that the sound I am listening to corresponds to it. The basses are extremely controlled - with a depth of another planet. Besides all that, the speed of the midrange is simply planetary. At a moderate level there is no distortion. This is a real surprise for this kind of recordings.

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Let us turn to the theme I wanted to listen to, as the unplugged „The Man Who Sold The World“ is a real rarity, which will remain in history. Incredible, with this amplifier you can hear everything... voices, music, guitars, including people screaming or just mumbling, "Oh no, not me ..." I am very impressed.

Now Prestige Records, Miles Davis, Relaxing, and I feel the same again. I note a giant resolution, the space in front of me is surprising, and virtually I immerse myself in the music, By the way, the bass is interplanetary.

In real terms, the integrated **phono card** to the model 530 just does what it has to do, stream music in its deepest genesis, and that, no doubt, has left me with my mouth open.

Now with regard to digital sources... On the server Aurender I would like to create a list of themes which are really plaintiffs concerning music quality, warmth and technical terms, with **power-thirsty** passages.

The first album I listen to is from Eagles, New kid in town... The sound is very similar to the vinyl one, very defined, with a speed without any criteria. The chorus is presented in the corresponding place, which surprises me.

Reserving me any right, the next album is from Los Prisoneros, estreches de corazón, DAT master output, 24-bit, 96kHz ... I am amazed again. Incredible what all the device delivers from the music, independent of the astronomical bass, the definition is from another planet. I wish you could listen to what I am hearing, but it sounds really superior, very superior. "You are crying and do nothing"...

Now, comes my reference of the 80s again... Pet Shop Boys, Domino Dancing... Extraordinary is the form of playing synthesized passages. What most strikes me again is the tranquility with which this device plays reaching the lowest harmonious level available. It is outstanding in every way!

Urgent, Foreigner, 24/96 ... Again, another recording ... It is so strange. I do not know whether I should consider it as an achievement or an obstacle, but all in all, what I am hearing exceeded my expectations...

As a last theme I left this, George Gershwin, Rhapsody in Blue, by Jon Nakamatsu and the Rochester Philharmonic, Harmoni Mundi, 24/88. Now I realize that I need more room... But even so, the music I am listening to is so superior to what I had heard before that I do not care much. The classical composition of Fantasia 2000, or the New Yorker cartoons, or "Vuele con United" is transforming into a wave of sound, converting one to another, being full of life, with spark, with music in a natural way. The final stages of this work have never had this kind of sound. I do not know to what it can be attributed, but suddenly I felt the irresistible urge to express my reference as a representation.

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My conclusion, however, it may seem obvious, is only one. Before and after Soulution and Soulution. I will not remove my current reference concerning the integrated models like e.g. Accuphase E-560, because with regard to the price and quality ratio there is no competition, but the Soulution costs more than twice, and that means it must be judged with its counterparts.

There are several contenders in the world of Super High End, and the above named are part of this list, but within those, and some others that can reach the country soon, exceeds Soulution in various fields. It is the most important of all, it hardly has competition, because it always delivers a natural timbre and unrestricted dynamic, being free of tiredness.

I regret that the is so high that not everyone can hear what I am listening to, but my current reference in the range without parameters is called Soulution 530, because I have never listened to an integrated amplifier that delivers this quality level, without compromise, in any rank.

If you have money to spend, think what you are looking for, call and put your name on the list, because this will be your last integrated amplifier.

Reference – used equipment:

Integrated Amplifier E-560 Accuphase, Integrated Amplifier 530 Soulution,
Amp A-65 Accuphase, Pre Amp C 2810 Accuphase.

Analogous Sources: Transrotor Orfeo 25 25 80 TMD, Dual Motors, Constant M-2,
Capsule Ortofon Anna.

Digital Sources: Wadia S7i, Aurender S10.

Analogous Cables: Shunyata Aurora XLR, Stealth Audio Hyperphono,

Digital Cables: Furutech Flux XLR

Loudspeaker Cables: Shunyata Anaconda

Power Cables: Shunyata Anaconda and King Cobra

Loudspeakers: MagicoS5, Diapason Astera.

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