

NAD provides power to build bridges

NAD C270

Power amplifier £450



For Real powerhouse, with range of applications and solid build

Against Nothing at all

Verdict Great for biamping with an integrated or just for more clout: another cost-effective NAD solution

Is there an area in which NAD doesn't have the ability to make products that perform beyond expectations? We're at a loss to

think of one. Here's a power amp designed to be used with the company's integrated amps or preamps, selling for a very sensible price and with massive power on tap. It even has the choice of variable or fixed line inputs and a 12V trigger system for use in more complex systems, and it can be bridged.

Actually, '...and it can be bridged' is rather understating matters. As standard the amp delivers 120W per channel but

bridged to create a mono amp it will deliver a stonking 300W while retaining NAD's usual grip and effortless presentation.

And that creates an intriguing prospect: the C270 has the same power stage as that in the C370 integrated amp, which can also be bridged, and a combination of the two would create a 300W per channel two-box amplifier at a very affordable price. That's a possibility we'll explore.

This time we stuck to testing the C270 with the C350 amp from this month's group test, using the two to biampify our speakers. The two have the same gain (29dB) and work together perfectly.

Boy, do they work together! As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, we rather rate the C350; but with the C270 driving the bass and the integrated handling just the treble, it's something else.

This is a belting combination, delivering seemingly limitless amounts of grunt and possessing massive weight to underpin its midband and treble detailing. What's more, it remains clean, unfussed and totally in control even at very high levels – we endeavoured to explore its limits but concern for ears and speakers (from sheer level, not distortion) made us back off before we got anywhere near.

The NAD integrations are very fine, but if your speakers have terminals for biwiring/biamping adding a C270 could be the best investment you ever make.



LEADING RIVALS

There aren't any! Honest. We've tried to think of something but failed. And you want to know why?

Given the specialist nature of this amp, which is designed for use with other NAD products, there are no direct rivals.