

French magazine "HAUTE FIDELITE" September 2002 Review of the Halcro dm68 Super-Fidelity power amplifier

Before we even contemplated or listened to it, Halcro came to our attention by particularly persistent word-of-mouth-propaganda. Despite the announced crazy numbers (price and power) and the stupid rumour about this totally new and absolutely unknown brand coming from a county that does not exactly shine with the number of its realisations in super-fidelity, we here find a realisation extremely rational and sound. The towers are totally operational and are ready to display after only very little time of set-up and you can totally rely on them. As the towers are bedecked with electrical protections, they are virtually unbreakable, the dream of any engineer. But talking about Halcro and not mentioning the modelling of these machines would almost be a crime. The amplifiers of this brand equally show modern aesthetics as well as extremely high standards. Either you love them or you hate them, we are completely convinced. The connector is designed logically, the user has the choice between four boxes (one symmetrical and three asymmetrical) and has two terminals ready to use for the connection. The ICE receptacle with the master switch is placed under the towers in order not to spoil the designed profile, the switch mode power supply is shielded. There is an air pressure power switch button, the effect of which is surprising and stunning.

Halcro is not at all just dedicated to the production of acoustic devices. It is mainly a company under contract with the Australian army and other rather serious clients. The creator of the DM68, Bruce Candy, is a well-known physician who has studied the question of audio solutions for a long time.

Listener: Pierre Bonvoisin

The two Halcro power towers only need one signal to wake up. They are impressive like two monuments of modern architecture and in a way symbolise a dream come true. As they are massive and brilliantly made, they immediately encourage to listen. Everything was tried to make them crack – from Schubert to Lauryn Hill – but it is impossible to make out the smallest inconsistency/ flaw on the "battleship" of these two Australians. From the first notes one can feel that these amplifiers have an exceptional potential. There is this delicacy and this precision in the reproduction of dynamic contrasts that can only be found in very powerful amplifiers. And there is this liberty of expression that is characterised by instancy of attacks and an outstanding softness in the high spectrum. Hence there is no distortion and it gives a really outstanding natural expression. These qualities come along with a beautiful general neutrality and a general balance. The medium of the high notes is magnificent, fine and smooth, with regards to instruments and to voices. The low notes are uncompromising and perfectly in place under all circumstances. It really leaves the impression that the speakers are gaining eight octaves and the Halcro amplifiers prove to be authoritarian with the woofers.

What an incredible dynamism! With these distortionless two powerful towers, you really wish to benefit from a realistic listening level on a regular basis. It is really so easy to relax when the music is so vivid. No distortion means that you can enjoy listening to a symphony or you can rediscover an old "live" album under the impression that you are lifting a veil between the musician and yourself, just as if everything had just become clear. The pieces suddenly parade in front of your eyes and ears. The acoustic picture is of a staunch stability and you will be surprised how it translates into a tri-dimensional space that is created around you. The speakers no longer exist, they made room for an open window to a parallel universe. The stunning bass of the low notes gives a respiration to the room and the sensation of depth. This sensation is increased by the absence of imprecision on a realistic level which makes it possible to completely recreate the tenor of the instruments.

You also must not forget to get two excellent speakers which are capable of doing justice to such monuments without flinching or getting weaker. And don't forget to warn the neighbours that you have two new flatmates and that you are running the risk that they will become a big part of your life. Looking at such an abundance of high-quality items, I can affirm without being wrong that it is a masterpiece among the two or three good current realisations on the field of amplifiers without compromise. As they are smooth and nuance, never aggressive, the towers made by Halcro never make the speakers crack. They are reliable and know how to re-transcribe the outstanding power which lies in them without trembling. They are subtle, precise and extremely transparent and seduce the audiophiles with qualities that need no further discussion. These qualities will make any music lover wanting to listen to music until the early morning hours.

Listener: Helena Vivoin

This amplifier is an undeniable success. Here are some acoustic characteristics we have been able to detect: enormous coherence, depth of details, fantastic dynamic, remarkable spectrum and no distortion. It is true that in general, these criteria are basically worked out by the constructor, but also by the listener and the audiophile. The balance of Shadow and light can be found nicely worked out in this device. We evoked the remarkable dynamic of speed, of the bracing effect and the depth of the spectrum. These characteristics were tested as the CD included percussions or just as well instruments with a dynamic attack. But we have also tried to evoke the thread of softness and the colours of soft and subtle pieces. You would be surprised about the silkiness of some instruments. It is a bit like being the conductor of an orchestra who adjusts the playing of the musicians to the musical style and adjusting the tone to complement the artists. The instruments mix and rise up in coherence and homogeneity every time. The music breathes, it spreads out generously. The profusion of details is not true for any moment, like an overabundance of unnatural details. Quite contrary, it brings a touch of luminosity which engraves the high notes without emphasizing them too much. The reverberation, no matter if it is totally natural or made in a studio,

mixes with the flow of music with suppleness. The difficulty in using this device consists of the layout of an ensemble: player-speakers-listening room. Depriving the listener of all this musicality would be a crime. This amplifier is exceptional, and before you listen to it make sure you settle comfortably in an armchair, it is an amazing device. Here we find a product that allows us to reunite all sorts of listeners, from the lover of rock to classic music as well as those who love various different styles. They will all have one language in common: The smile on their faces of the feeling of finally having gained musical satisfaction.

Listener: Laurent Thorin

Let us not beat about the bush: the DM 68 blocks by Halcro are the best powerful amplifiers which we have listened to until the present day. Certainly, the electronic devices currently on the market haven't damaged our ears, but those which give us the opportunity to truly appreciate are very few. The DM68 towers have left a strong impression on us. If great and lovely surprises are often to be found, the real emotional clashes are much more rare. And listening to these two towers made by Halcro are one of those clashes, one of those moments that set a milestone. The Halcro amplifiers synthesize the most remarkable qualities. From the very first seconds of listening they do not allow the distance between the music and its listener. Halcro are not trying to play the role of certain "snobbish" acoustics. Quite opposite, they try everything to keep the sound easier to understand. No matter which style of music or which level of acoustics, these DM68 amplifiers always give a maximum of comfort of listening. The listener never needs to make the slightest effort of concentration to find small details, as the Halcro blocks make the information spring out with amazing ease. So if only one quality must stay in your memory, then it is this ease of re-transcribing the music. The subjective power is more important than the numbers announced. It is certainly unthinkable to try to attempt to describe their performance without pointing out their acoustic balance so close to reality, their sublime softness, their complete absence of hardness and distortion and their brilliant image. But more than their fundamental qualities, their greatest power is the ability to act as a transmitter of adrenalin.