

Vitus SM-101 Monoblock amplifier

The Thunder and the Silence

part One
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I promised myself some 10 years ago that once this endeavor of writing about audio stopped being fun, I would recede quietly into the inky black night. After all, my enjoyment of music was far too important, and vital to contaminate it with frustration, or even worse, benevolence. Luckily, my inability to keep to such virtuous proclamations has kept me in the game, and what a game it has been. This year has proven to be bottom of the ninth, bases loaded and a full count for all the components that have come to bat. Like some dream team line up, there has been one clutch hit after another. From the Focus Audio Master II loudspeakers, the Von Schweikert VR7 loudspeakers to the Nova Acoustics Memory Player, I have been introduced to a whole new level, a flier into what is possible in high end audio.

Coming off the review of another heavy hitter, the Karan Acoustics KA S450 which raised the bar for both price and performance, I was presented with the opportunity to review the new \$50,000 Danish monster in the Vitus Audio SM-101, 100 watt mono-blocks. A relative newcomer, I heard some pretty positive things about Vitus Audio from fellow instigator Dave Thomas who mentioned them at the '06 CES. Being that the North American importer is Focus Audio, it seemed a good fit, as I still had possession of the venerable Focus Master II. After a protracted wait due to production schedules and over zealous customs agents, the SM-101 amps arrived. Uncrating these beasts really should be a two-man job, but for what I have lost in the last ten years in brute strength, I have gained in the understanding of physics and leverage. This enabled me to extract the SM-101s from their boxes and wrestle them into position without hurting anything of significance. Lined up on either side of the Karan, they made this otherwise brawny amp look down right diminutive.