

BRYSTON



# BRYSTON

APRIL 2023

## DÍAPASON

### BRYSTON BR-20 REVIEW FROM DIAPASON MAGAZINE



5.5

Out of 5

MUSIC  
WITH  
EMOTION



**The BRYSTON BR-20 is musically and technically out of the norm.**

Bryston presents its latest BR-20 preamp, or rather its "ultimate audiophile hub" as "featuring a new fully balanced analog pre-amp architecture, with the digital-to-analog conversion of the BDA-3 DAC and streaming of our BDP series".

Bryston claims a distortion rate  $\leq 0.0006\%$  and a signal-to-noise

ratio of 110 dB, performance. .. out of the ordinary. The BR-20 has four analog inputs, two of which are balanced and a double set of balanced outputs, but nothing for recording.

On the digital side, seven inputs including two AES, two S / PDIF, two Toslink and one USB-B. Two Ethernet jacks for streaming and control, and USB-A for driving hard drives. Optional MM phono card identical to that of the separate BP-2 MM preamp, and a card

managing sound and video in HDMI (4 inputs, 1 output). The control of the streamer is entrusted to Manic Moose, a software accessible by the web requiring to connect the BR-20 network with a PC or tablet connected to Ethernet. No wi-fi, no application, the operation of these devices, as well as their impeccable manufacture, betray the professional origins of Bryston electronics.

Like it or not, but the reliability of the latter is such that Bryston associates them with a 20-year



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## BR-20 - TURN IT ON - BE AMAZED

warranty, who can say the same? Last but not least, the BR-20 also gets an excellent amp dedicated to headphones. If it's not perfect, it looks like it...

The BR-20, you plug it in, you turn it on and. .. You are amazed. A real music tap, an exceptional machine of truth, able to differentiate between two recordings without cheating, and to treat the musical signal with the respect it owes. We are immediately at the heart of the musical event.

The extracts scroll and it is each time a rediscovery, a happiness. In "Pur ti miro!" from Claudio Monteverdi's The Coronation of Poppea (Nardus Williams, Kate Lindsey, Ensemble Arcangelo, Jonathan Cohen. Alpha Classics), both divas offer a totally holographic representation;

**This is probably the first time that we perceive with overwhelming certainty the true dimension of the hall in which they evolve with the orchestra.**

The BDA-3 DAC exceeds in comprehension what can be expected from an integrated DAC. Same thing for the network drive, if we put aside an ergonomics of the software largely perfectible.

As for the headphone amp, it is worth separate models, with the limit of a single unbalanced output in 6.35 jack. No one is perfect, but if we put all these elements end to end considering

that everything is perfectly homogeneous and performing, we have in front of you one of the best DAC preamps network player available today. Period.

**Spectral balance: ★★★★★★**

**Dynamic: ★★★★★★**

**Music quality: ★★★★★★**

**Quality: ★★★★★★**

**Price: ★★★★★★**

**OVERALL RATING:**

**5.5 Out of 5**

**BRYSTON BR-20**

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