

## Impressions on the A25M tube amplifier after hearing it during CES 2016

A little background. Over the past year and a half Michael Green (of RoomTune fame) has opened his listening lab up to me, teaching me the fine art of tuning in your music. The concept of needing to tune your audio system made perfect sense to me as I play guitar and piano. Along with his tuning Mr. Green has a rotation of high end audio equipment that equals any audio reviewer. Green has been used for 30 some years as one of the industry's "ears of choice" tuning in reviewers such as Harry Pearson, Tom Miiller, Les Linton, Gary Reber, Guy Lemcoe, J Gordon Holt to name a few. He's also toured and engineered for and with David Bowie, Bee Gees, Dion, Atlanta Symphony, Doc Watson, Mick Ronson, Stevie Nicks and many other artist. Mr. Green specializes in soundstage creation and reproduction and has over 200,000 registered followers on his two audio forums.

When distributor Harold Cooper (Sound Consultant) and Michael invited us to come hear the Audolici it was a little surprising because MGA doesn't usually single out specific components over methods of listening and the tools of the tune. Yes Harold is a distributor but the team (MG, HC) of these golden ears when wearing their MGA cap stick to their plan of flexible audio as a whole. So getting an invitation to come listen to a component vs a system approach perked my ears thinking this must be some component. "Some Component" turned out to be an understatement. I came to TuneLand Vegas for the sessions. TuneLand is made up of three main dedicated listening rooms, one downstairs and two up. As I walked up the stairs to Michael's Rm#2 I can remember thinking "sounds like classic tubes". Stepping into the listening room was like entering the concert hall in all the right ways. I was immersed in stage layering before I ever got near the listening chair. Classic Tubes is probably not the best way to describe the Audolici A25-M. Without a doubt this nicely built tube amp has that classic tube sound, but absent that getting under the nails wooliness that creeps up in most long term tube listening. With the A25-M it was as if these tubes are being used in such a way able to present the clarity and warmth without the tube after taste. Let me attempt to explain this statement.

As much as I love tubes there has always been these characters of either the tubes turning everything into a pleasant but not so real sound falling into a wooly sound that after time starts to wear on me. The other side are tube designs trying to sound like solid state ending up with something that is unbalanced with the tonality. It seems like we are either stuck with everything warmed to death or tubes not sounding like the signal is being passed through the chain naturally. What I heard with the Audolici is a new world, combining the very best of classic tube sound with a perfection in the tonal balance department. My very first comment to the guys was not about the sound, but instead "what is the price". Sure the answer was going to be way out there in Can't Touch Land along with so many extreme high end audio price tags I was relieved, even shocked, that the A25-M is in the medium pricing range. Medium price range yet extreme high end audio performance. Living miles away from the CES I get to hear it all and what I heard with the A25 transcends the typical and for a fraction of the \$\$\$\$.

Mr. Green must be smiling from ear to ear listening to the Audolici every day. I'm hoping to visit TuneLand again soon to spend more time with this beauty but first impressions are hard to put into words. Might I say "yummy".



follow up

After my visit to Michael and Harold's Vegas TuneLand I've been chomping at the bit to get back with my personal CD's. I brought a wide range from Classical to Experimental Rock. Mr. Green isn't crazy about DJ listening as he takes the time to let recordings settle in but many of us don't have the patience for much more than listening to a few recordings after a long day at work. My wife and I do a lot of our listening together so my better half came with me to test out the A25-M. The Audolici this time was setup with MGA's new Viola FS Chameleon 102 speaker system in the same room with a couple of things different acoustically and cable wise. I noticed this time around Michael was using his power cords instead of the super thick Esoteric Audio. We could also see that he had done some work to the wall outlets and a couple other changes including MGA Tuning Blocks under the amp. If you haven't heard these guys tune up a system you need to put this event at the top of your bucket list. Another thing on your list should be to listen to an A25-M setup in a righteous listening room.

Michael started off by apologizing for some new audio tweaks burning in, then handed us the remote and left the room. Both Michael and Harold are very accommodating when it comes to not being in your ear while auditioning music. First thing we played was Iron Butterfly "In A Gadda Da Vida". My wife who was making fun of me earlier saying "there was no way it could sound that good" promptly kicked me out of the listening chair after the first couple of notes, she didn't leave either till the entire recording was done. I got my turn with "Pines Of Rome" (Cleveland Symphony Orchestra). The Audolici A25-M is an amazing music interpreter. It felt like there was miles of soundstage layering depth and width to climb trough but something more too. The weight and girth of each instrument carried it's own space to perfection while at the same time there is a sense that the instruments are intermingling without stepping on each others toes. I thought to myself "I'm going to have to re-do my audiophile vocabulary just to make room for what I want to say about this amp cause it clearly gives new meaning to the hobby of listening" and this is very rare for us seasoned listeners who think we have heard it all. The space and textures of each passing moment redefined our favorite recordings as if systems past were Hi Fi.

With the Audolici A25-M amplifier I can say this "if you haven't yet given this special music maker the proper listen, you may never have heard tubes in their intended setting and your music with the attention it deserves".

Highly Recommended!

Jim Regarr  
TuneLand Member

