

NVA The Second Statement

NVA DIDN'T REALLY WANT A REVIEW, BUT READERS LOOKING FOR A SERIOUS BARGAIN COULD WELL FIND IT HERE

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Anybody looking for a serious bargain in power amplification should check out the NVA websites. Unlike most of today's industry, the company doesn't believe in the current trend towards stupidly high prices, and also considers that dealers are not all that useful either. The result is a collection of hi-fi equipment that is sold direct to customers from websites at prices that seem almost risibly low.

Providing some background here, NVA originally stood for Nene Valley Audio, which is where Richard Dunn founded the operation back in the 1982 (having sold his previous PA amplifier brand Tresham Audio). He's had his ups, downs and moves, and the base of operations is currently in South East London, but the decision to re-launch the company a decade or so ago came about because the internet enabled a low cost operation that combined servicing and sales.

That said, you won't find *The Second Statement* (TSS) model on his website, as it's only available

as a bespoke item to existing customers. It's an interesting design that resembles the *NAP 500* it was temporarily replacing more than any other I can think of, inasmuch as a two-box layout separates the power supply from the amplification. However, NVA's casework is deliberately made of plastic, and it uses four XLRs rather than a pair of Burndys to connect a truly massive supply to the amplification unit.

I snapped mine up as a secondhand bargain, but new examples cost £3,500, which might not be exactly cheap, but it's not outrageously costly either, especially compared to the price of a Naim *NAP 500* (which was away being *DR* upgraded at the time).

One crucial observation was that the change wasn't nearly as obvious as the price differential might suggest. Furthermore, NVA's *TSS* proved entirely capable of distinguishing between the various phono stages and step-up devices reviewed on pp46-48, which is proof positive of its fine capabilities. A Best Buy rating is therefore clearly mandatory.

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