

DLS CC-44 + CC-1000 - Top class compact power amplifiers

A little more,
perhaps?

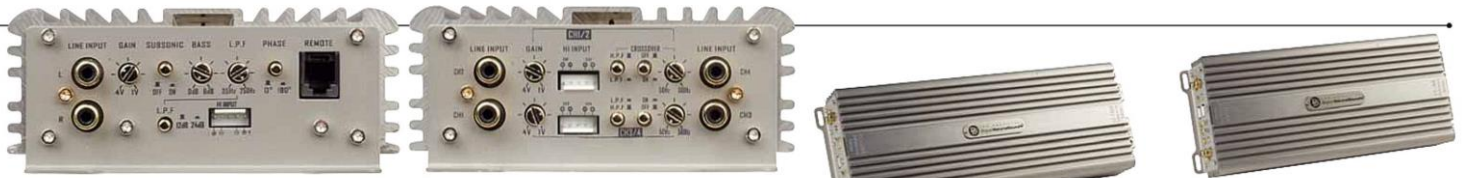
► At the end of last year, the editorial department got a look at the brand new reference CC power amplifiers from DLS. In the meantime, additions have been made to the Swedish beauties with the English influence.

With the current reference CC series, DLS is reacting to demand for small but sophisticated amps. The CC-4 and the CC-500 have already proven that these high-class amplifiers have no reason to feel inferior to traditional full size boards as far as sound is concerned. Two new models are now coming onto the market for power-hungry sound enthusiasts, one four-channel version and one mono version, the CC-44 and the CC-1000. More power with the same featurings, which is primarily manifested in longer housings. The front and height are the same in all reference CC power amplifiers, because they are cut from the same piece of aluminium. The CC's have become exceptionally attractive, and in combination with

the gold-plated controls and connections the amps make an extremely sophisticated impression. On the inside they are modern and well-organised thanks to SMD equipping (at least in the CC-44), and all amps in the series have impressive workmanship. The circuits are extremely traditional, which means that the large mono is a class D, of course, whereby the CC-44 operates in accordance with the analogue class A/B principle. The symmetrical input stages on the daughter boards are already known from the small CC-2 and CC-4 models. As far as the layout is concerned, it is nice to see that the power semiconductors are screwed to the housing with additional aluminium heat sinks, which keeps things cool and provides stability. As far as the

equipment is concerned, The CC's are equipped with high-level inputs and auto start, meaning that they can be installed in cars in which the original radio is used without problems. The active crossovers of the CC-44 allow the most important settings to be made: High-pass or low-pass up to 500 Hz - and no more. The CC-1000 is somewhat better equipped. It has three additional switches for subsonic (fixed at 27 Hz), polarity reversal, and thankfully a facility for switching between 12 and 24 dB filter slope.

The amps made a good impression in the lab measurements, easily outstripping their little sisters as anticipated.



High level inputs with auto start, plus full filter equipment with switchable filter slope in the case of the CC-1000.

With 394, 621 and 782 Watts, the mono also provides sufficient power for hungry subs. Surprisingly, the CC-44 behaves completely differently from the CC-4. It provides uniform power up to the load limit, and obviously has a significantly "harder" power supply. With 73 W at 4 Ohms and 116 W at 2 Ohms, it still isn't exactly a powerhouse; however, someone in England has severely cranked up the decay factors, because the CC-44 is "Sound tuned in England", like all CCs.

Sound

Regardless of the sound tuning, one thing is for certain: The audiophile performance of the CC in the listening test was "music to our ears". It paints singers or natural instruments with almost sumptuous acoustic colour and puts them onto a spacious stage. This is playback to die for, that you can enjoy listening to for long periods of time. It doesn't hit you between the eyes in the low bass or super-high frequency range, it is more a case of the tranquillity and serenity of a mature power amplifier. This is where the CC-1000 is the real teaser, because it is not above dealing with sneaky bass attacks that can also come from nowhere. Even with low bass hum it keeps things firmly under control, and impresses with its accuracy as far as bass drums are concerned. Overall, a flawless bass power amplifier that is second to none.

Summary

The large CC's aren't exactly cheap, but they are extremely attractive and good. A good choice for sound lovers who are looking for traditional performance with a modern look.

Elmar Michels

DLS CC-1000			
Sales	Soundfashion Friedrichshafen		
Hotline	07544 7414750		
Internet	www.dls.de		
Sound	20 %	1.1	■■■■■
Depth	5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Pressure	5 %	1.5	■■■■■
Cleanliness	5 %	1.0	■■■■■
Dynamic range	55 %	1.0	■■■■■
Laboratory	55 %	1.6	■■■■■
Performance	40 %	1.0	■■■■■
Damping Factor	5 %	2.5	■■■
Signal to noise ratio	5 %	3.0	■
THD	5 %	1.5	■■■■■
Practice	25 %	1.2	■■■■■
Features	15 %	1.0	■■■■■
Processed electronics	5 %	1.5	■■■■■
Processed mechanical systems	5 %	1.5	■■■■■

Technical data	
Channels	1
Power in 4 ohm	394
Power in 2 ohm	621
Power in 1 ohm	782
Sensitivity max. mV	1100
Sensitivity min. V	4.4
THD+N (<22 kHz) @ 5 W	0.052
THD+N (<22 kHz) @ half-load	0.071
Signal to noise ratio dB(A)	54
Damping factor 20 Hz	98
Damping factor 40 Hz	100
Damping factor 60 Hz	102
Damping factor 80 Hz	102
Damping factor 100 Hz	93
Damping factor 120 Hz	92

Equipment	
Low pass 35	35 - 250 Hz
High pass	-
Bandpass 27	27
Bass boost	0 - 6 Hz
Subsonic filter	0, 27 Hz/24 dB
Phase shift	0, 180°
High level inputs	•
Autotimer (Autosense)	• at Hi-in
Cinch outputs	-
Dimensions (L x W x H in mm)	368 x 129 x 51
Other	Remote control, TP 12/24 dB

Assessment			
Price	Around 600 Euros		
Sound	20 %	1.1	■■■■■
Laboratory	55 %	1.6	■■■■■
Practice	25 %	1.2	■■■■■

DLS CC-1000

Top Notch
Price/performance ratio: **1.3**
extremely good

CAR&HIFI Issue 3/2015

"The large mono of the reference CC series pampers you with its powerful output down to 1 Ohm".

DLS CC-44			
Sales	Soundfashion Friedrichshafen		
Hotline	07544 7414750		
Internet	www.dls.de		
Sound	40 %	1.2	■■■■■
Bass reproduction	8 %	1.5	■■■■■
Neutrality	8 %	1.0	■■■■■
Transparency	8 %	1.0	■■■■■
Space	8 %	1.5	■■■■■
Dynamic range	8 %	1.0	■■■■■
Laboratory	35 %	1.6	■■■■■
Performance	20 %	2.0	■■■
Damping Factor	5 %	0.5	■■■■■
Signal to noise ratio	5 %	1.0	■■■■■
THD	5 %	1.5	■■■■■
Practice	25 %	1.8	■■■
Features	15 %	2.0	■■■
Processed electronics	5 %	1.5	■■■■■
Processed mechanical systems	5 %	1.5	■■■■■

Technical data	
Channels	4
Power in 4 ohm	73
Power in 2 ohm	116
Power in 1 ohm	0
Mono bridge mode 4 ohms (X2/X1)	232
Mono bridge mode 2 ohms	0
Sensitivity max. mV	1300
Sensitivity min. V	4.3
THD+N (<22 kHz) @ 5 W	0.066
THD+N (<22 kHz) @ half-load	0.042
Signal to noise ratio dB(A)	94
Damping factor 20 Hz	558
Damping factor 40 Hz	496
Damping factor 60 Hz	498
Damping factor 80 Hz	498
Damping factor 100 Hz	407
Damping factor 120 Hz	269

Equipment	
Low pass 35	50 - 500 Hz
High pass	50 - 500 Hz
Bandpass 27	-
Bass boost	-
Subsonic filter	-
Phase shift	-
High level inputs	•
Autotimer (Autosense)	•
Cinch outputs	-
Dimensions (L x W x H in mm)	320 x 129 x 55
Other	-

Assessment			
Price	Around 500 Euros		
Sound	40 %	1.2	■■■■■
Laboratory	35 %	1.6	■■■■■
Practice	25 %	1.8	■■■

DLS CC-44

Top Notch
Price/performance ratio: **1.5**
extremely good

CAR&HIFI Issue 3/2015

"The CC-44 is an outstanding sounding and also attractive power amplifier with a compact design".

