

## *Kaluga, the Power Amplifier*

### Long read



### **CLASS D HAS NEVER BEEN SO GOOD. COME TO THINK OF IT, NEITHER HAS CLASS A...**

Kaluga is based on world's most sought after class D technology: Ncore. Also designed by Bruno Putzeys, this circuit packs 20 years of research and experience into non-linear control theory. Unprecedentedly low distortion, noise and output impedance combine into what scores of enthusiastic users unanimously describe as “no sonic signature at all”. Just music, glorious music. For instance, the two supposedly unassailable strongholds of class A amplifiers are linearity and output impedance, at high frequencies. Plotted below are the output impedance as a function of frequency and the output spectrum in a high power (400W), high frequency IMD test. In both cases Kaluga outperforms any power amplifier, regardless of technology, operating class or asking price, of which such test results are available.

The amplifier board is a Mola-Mola-specific design deriving from the famous NC1200 amplifier. The audio circuitry is trimmed to the bare bones and board-to-board connectors are eliminated in favour of soldering a pair of star-quad cables directly into the circuit board for the cleanest, lowest impedance connection possible. The input stage is moved to a separate circuit board that uses the same discrete buffers as those found in the Makua. The redesigned output filter sports monolithic capacitors whose dielectric stability is reflected in an impressively neutral and poised rendition. The days of compromising power efficiency for audio performance are finally over: the Kaluga delivers definitive audio performance with power efficiency thrown in as a bonus.

**Performance**

400W/80hm

700W/4 ohm

1200W/2ohm

Gain: 28 dB

Unweighted Signal/Noise Ratio: 128 dB

Distortion (THD, IMD): <0.003 % (all frequencies and power levels)

Input Impedance: 100 kohm

Output Impedance: <0.002 ohm (DF>4000), all frequencies.

Bandwidth: >50 kHz

**I/O**

Balanced and unbalanced input.

2 pairs of Furutech binding posts, biwired directly to the amplifier PCB using Kubala-Sosna cable.

Left: Output impedance vs frequency. Right: Output spectrum for a 18.5kHz+19.5kHz 200W+200W (4 ohm) test

**Dimensions and Weight**

200mm(W) x 110mm (H) x 335mm (D). Depth includes speaker terminals.

7kg

