

# TEST REPORT

## NANO Block NX3



# Massive Audio NX3 Amplifier Review

**Model: NX3**

## **Summary:**

Massive Audio's Three Channel Nano Block Series Amplifier: This is a versatile hybrid AB/D class amplifier, with twin power supplies delivering 2080 Max watts of power.

## **Basic specifications:**

- 2 x 120 RMS into 4 ohm, 2 x 240 RMS into 2 ohm.
- 1 x 344 RMS into 4 ohm, 1 x 521 RMS into 2 ohm. 1 x 800 RMS into 1 ohm.
- CEA 2006 Compliant

## **Features:**

- Twin variable 0.2 Volt – 4.5 Volt input gain controls
- Fully variable high pass filters on channels 1+2, 25 Hz to 220 Hz at 12 dB / octave butterworth crossover
- Fully variable low pass filter on channel 3, 220 Hz to 50 Hz at 24 dB/octave Linkwitz Riley crossover
- Fully variable subsonic filter on channel 3, 50 Hz to 20 Hz at 12 dB/octave butterworth crossover
- Fully variable 12 dB bass boost on channel 3 @ 50 Hz
- Variable one band parametric equalizer with adjustable center frequency, 30 Hz to 90 Hz
- Variable pro audio narrow/wide bass "Q" adjustment on channel 3
- Push button 1 and 2 + 3 channel input mode selector
- Dash mount remote gain control for mono channel (Optional)
- Differential line inputs to prevent engine noise
- End caps and connectors for stacking with other Nano Block amplifiers (Optional)
- Advanced five way protection circuitry
- Blue / Red L.E.D. operation status lights

## NX3 SIDE PLATE - FEATURES



### Hands on:

Installation was very straightforward after following the instructions in the owner's manual. Connected to channels 1 and 2 was a pair of 4  $\Omega$  component speakers. A dual 2  $\Omega$  subwoofer wired in parallel was connected to channel 3. I fed the head unit front outputs to channels 1 and 2 with a pair of low noise RCA cables. By using the push button 1 and 2 + 3 channel input selector a second pair of RCA cables were not needed. The subsonic was set to 20 Hz minimum and LPF to maximum, with no boost applied to the SUB-EQ.

The slight turn on delay ensured that no turn on noises were heard from the speakers, and there was "NO" turn off pop that is found on many other amps I have tested.

The HPF was set at about 90Hz on channels 1&2. The LPF on channel 3 was set to 90 Hz. It took me a minute or two to set the gain controls for a good tonal balance between the component speakers and the subwoofer. I set the gain on channels 1&2 at about 50% or midway to start and channel 3 (the bass channel) at about 70%. During the set up the bass "EQ" was set a 30Hz with no bass gain. The bass "Q" setting was set at its minimum.

By this point the system sounded very good, but was lacking a little upper bass between 50-100Hz. The SUB-EQ on channel 3 came to the rescue. With the FREQ raised to about 80 Hz, the bass boost up +6 dB and "Q" at 30% the warmth and "Hit" of the mid bass came to life. These adjustments normally found on very high end pro audio equipment improved sound quality from good to exceptional!

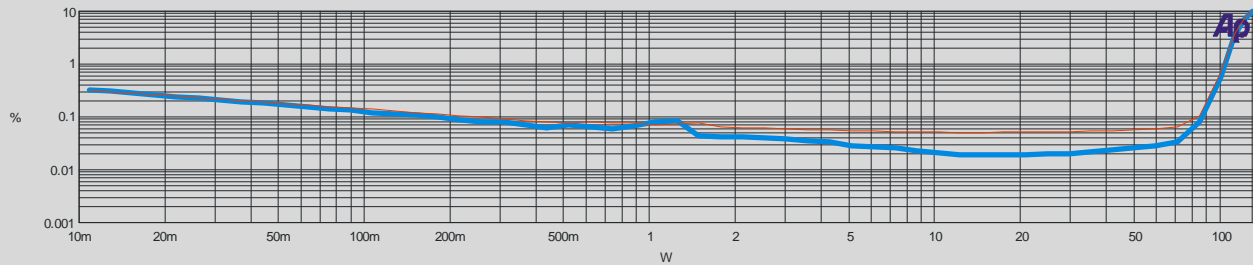
The amplifier handled all music styles I could throw at it with equal ease, never straining. The frequency response was impressive!

## Measurements:

All performance aspects as per the manufacturer's specifications were verified using an Audio Precision System One Instrument, as the graphs below illustrate.

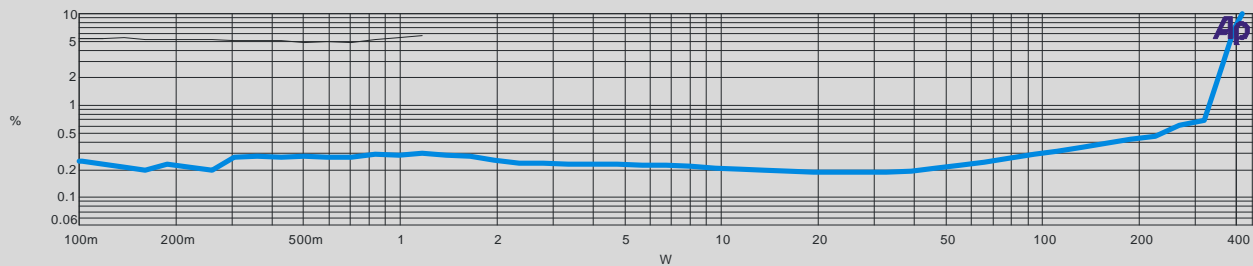
NX3

THD vs power 4 ohm CH1&2



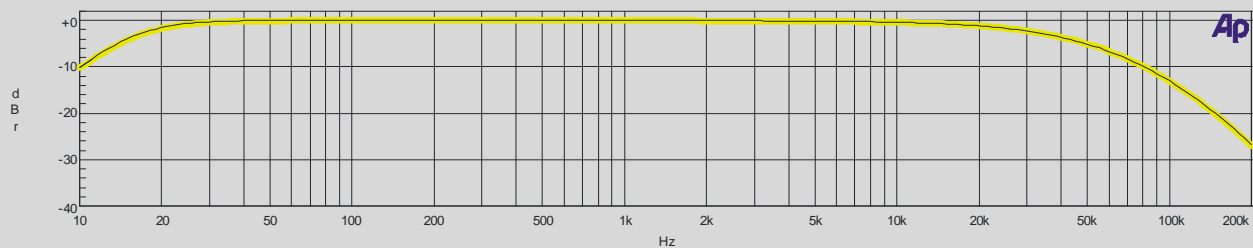
NX3

THD vs power 4 ohm CH3



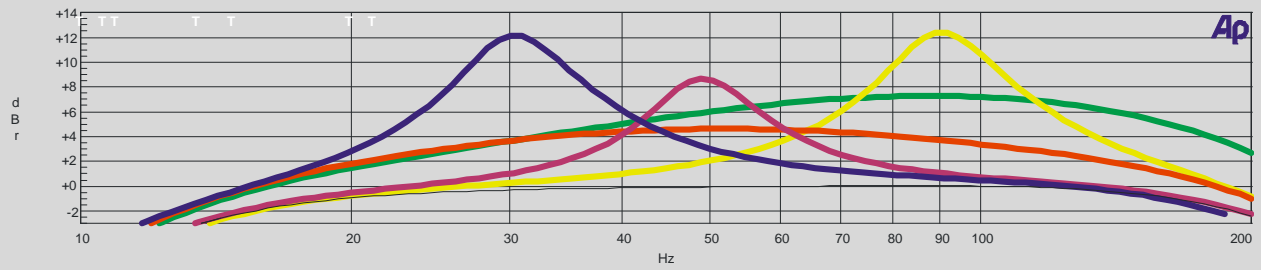
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Frequency response Full Range - CH1&2



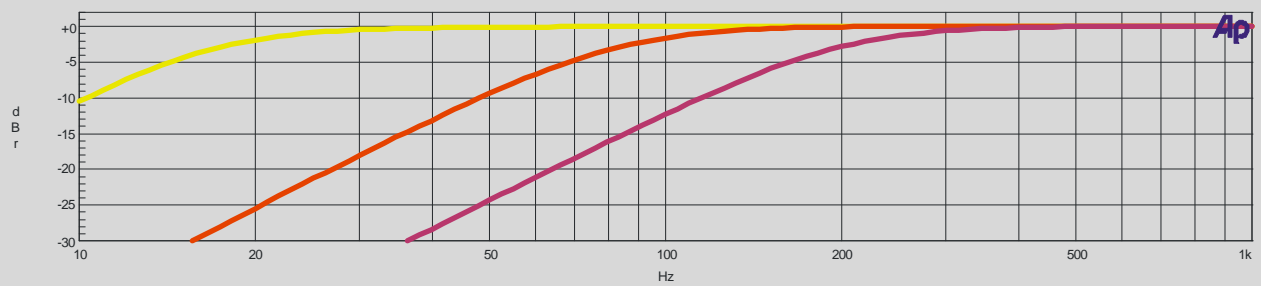
NX3

Frequency response -Bass EQ  
Control/s at various positions



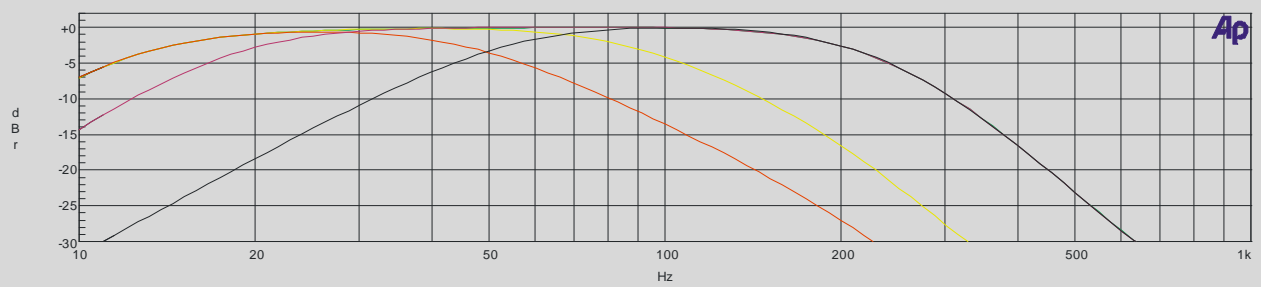
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Frequency response - Filters CH1&2 HP  
Control/s at min. mid and max



NX3

Frequency response - Filters CH3  
Control/s at min. mid and max



**Pros:**

- Small - 2.1" X 5.5" X 13.2" mounting foot print makes the installation of a stereo satellite and mono subwoofer system extremely flexible
- High performance "Pro audio control features"
- High power output in a modern "High gloss black brushed aluminum" finish
- One amp installation for a complete 3 channel system

**Cons:**

- No top mounted status or operation lights
- Bass remote is not included
- Hi-Level input not included

**Conclusion:**

This is a neatly packed brick of power. Small and flexible this little giant handled every test with a relative ease and scores high due to the size, price and power it provides. From hard driving digital techno bass dance music from a personal favorite "Skrillex" all the way to the perfect open sonic beauty found in Ludwig Van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor; this amplifier delivered the goods and never broke a sweat! I found very little sonic issues with this amplifier. The blue LED operational status light on the under dash mountable remote bass control was a nice touch although I would have liked it to change colors depending on status. Overall I rate the Massive Audio NX3 a 9 out of 10 and would recommend this for people that lack space but still need serious power and functionality.

