



Press Release

www.soulnote.link CSR, Inc. 18 May 2023

## **SOULNOTE launches the integrated stereo amplifier A-3 in its top-end series - P-3 (pre-amplifier) and 2x M-3 (monoblock) into one enclosure without compromise -**

**SOULNOTE** is proud to demonstrate the newly developed integrated stereo amplifier **A-3** at HIGH END 2023, **A 4.1, E121**, expanding the line-up of its top-end "3-series" (model name ending in "-3").

In collaboration with **Music Tools**, the Italian manufacturer of Albedo loudspeakers, the full line-up of the current "3-series" is also going to be demonstrated at **A 4.2, F223**.

This product is scheduled to be available from October 2023 onwards through SOULNOTE's authorised distributors worldwide.

### ➤ The brand and the people behind it

SOULNOTE is a high-end home audio brand by CSR, Inc. headquartered in Kanagawa, Japan.

CSR was founded in 2004 by the former members of **Marantz Japan**. It has around 50 employees now.

**Hideki Kato**, the Chief Sound Manager since 2016, has his long professional career since late eighties, having deeply involved in the development of the legendary *A-10* amplifiers by NEC as well as the *LHH* series by Philips, but having kept himself staying behind the scene.

SOULNOTE's first launch into Europe was a couple of years ago with the models *SA300 / SC300 / SD300 / SC710 / SA730*. However, the current line-up is based on totally different design concept from that of the previous models.

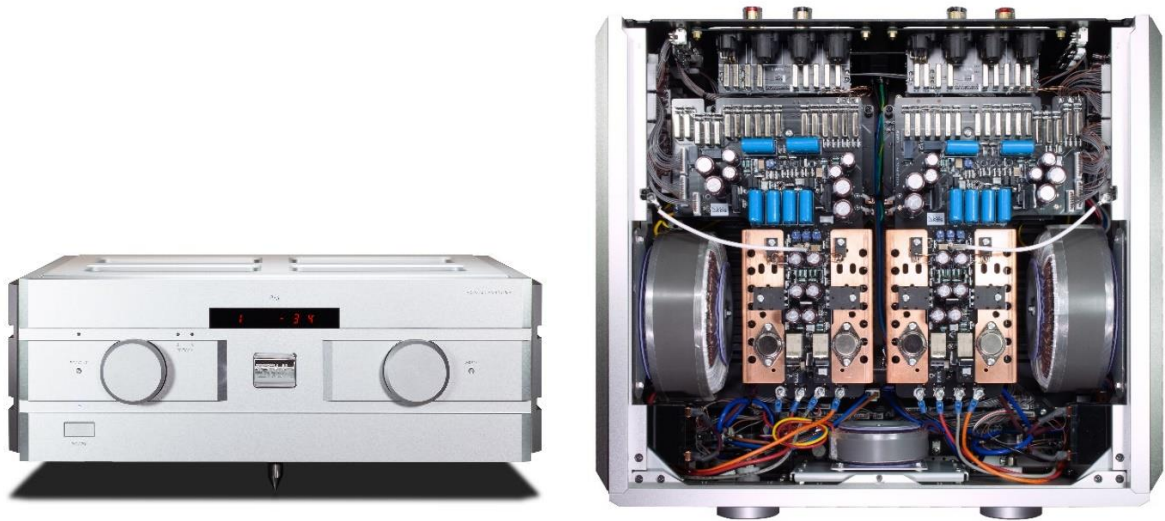
### ➤ SOULNOTE's design philosophy

Through his long career as a designer of audio equipment both in analogue and digital areas, Kato has been struggling to find out the reason why the improvement in **static performance** and the sound quality in playback did not always correspond.

Kato made a hypothesis about a counter-concept which he called **dynamic performance**. The adoption of the **NOS** (non-oversampling) mode for PCM playback in digital-to-analogue conversion as well as a **non-NFB** (without negative feedback) circuit in amplifiers come from this hypothesis. Indeed these worsen the measurement result in static performance, but a remarkable improvement can be recognised in dynamic one. SOULNOTE believes dynamic performance keeping accuracy of the original waveform on the **time axis** as the most important for music playback, which is, however, still unmeasurable by any of the conventional methods.

At SOULNOTE, only listening dominates the determination and improvement of circuit, selection of parts and mechanical construction. This approach is a kind of antithesis against the supremacy of static performance.

- **A-3:** integrated stereo amplifier [approximately € 20,990 (including 19% VAT in Germany)]



➤ Main features

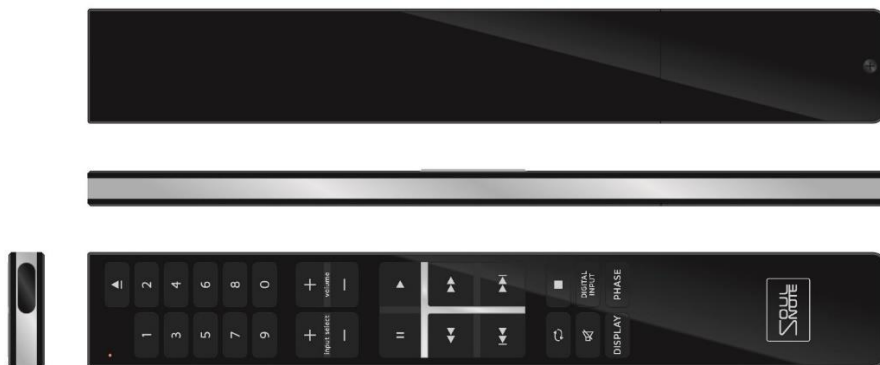
- Complete separation of left and right channel GNDs  
The GND separation technology incorporated in the P-3 pre-amplifier is applied to this model with a power amplification circuit. Its structure is not the same as the so-called dual-mono construction.
- Single push-pull output stage  
The output stage uses a single push-pull SEPP circuit with can-type bipolar transistors as used in the M-3 monoblock.
- 4-stage Darlington configuration with super-powerful driver and pre-driver  
To drive the CAN type transistor easily, an ultra-powerful TO3 type transistor is used in the driver as well as in the pre-driver.
- New **Type-R** circuit, fully balanced **non-NFB**  
For voltage amplification, a newly developed single-stage Type-R circuit is adopted.
- GND switching selector  
Disconnecting GND, which is one of the main features of the P-3 pre-amplifier, eliminates the sound quality degradation caused by GND loops when many playback devices are connected.
- Relay-switching balanced attenuator
- GND anchor  
The GND of the left and right channel power supply units is grounded to the left and right side metal insulated with ceramic washers, a special enclosure construction that acts as a GND anchor.
- Super-strong power transformer  
2x 700VA unimpregnated toroidal power transformers are used for the power amplification.
- High-speed **non-NFB** power supply
- Copper busbar heat sink
- Unfixed structure
- Volume bypass function
- Multiple-unit connection function
- REC OUT function

➤ Specifications

- Input: 3 (balanced), 3 (unbalanced)
- Output: 1 (loudspeaker)
- REC OUT: 1 (balanced), 1 (unbalanced)
- Volume bypass: 1 (balanced), 1 (unbalanced)
- Rated output: 120W + 120W (4 ohm)
- Total harmonic distortion: 0.27% (1W, 8 ohm)
- Frequency characteristic: 2Hz to 200kHz (+/-3dB, 1W, 8 ohm)
- Input sensitivity: 480mV
- S/N: 110dB
- Maximum gain: 33dB
- Power voltage: 230V AC 50Hz (EU model) / 115V AC 50Hz (US model)
- Power consumption: 180W / 86W (during idling)
- Maximum external dimensions (including spike feet): 454(W) x 184(H) x 407(D) mm
- Weight: 31kg
- Included accessories: 1x remote controller, 3x spike feet, 1x underboard, 1x spacer set (for underboard floating), 1x power cable

➤ New remote controller [approximately € 299 (including 19% VAT in Germany)]

- Included in the **A-3** carton (no additional charge)
- Compatible with the current remote controller for **A-1, A-2, P-3, S-3 Reference, D-3**
- Battery: 2x CR2032
- Piano black acrylic with silver zinc frame, 233 x 30 x 10 mm



➤ Contact information

[www.soulnote.link](http://www.soulnote.link)

[eu@soulnote.link](mailto:eu@soulnote.link) (B2B inquiry only)

[END]