

# At first glance

Introducing new developments in the Russian market

## Unequivocal answer from the DLS company

Manufacturers of audio systems are often asked the question: "Which electronic components will sound the best with this or that model of speakers?" Some of them give an unequivocal answer

**DLS CD ONE CD PLAYER**

**\$ 2450**

**INTEGRATED  
AMPLIFIER  
DLS AMPLIFIER ONE**

**\$ 2450**

**Clear,  
detailed  
and balanced  
sound;  
rhythmicity;  
positive control  
of the Hi-Fi system**

**Plain appearance**

**VERDICT**

**This system will help many  
speakers sound their very  
best: it deserves a lot of  
attention both as a system and  
as separates**

The Swedish company DLS has developed a reputation as the top manufacturer of in-car audio. The firm became well-known for the audio systems for stereo systems and home cinema that appeared in their range at the turn of the century. But DLS only started acquiring its own electronic components - CD players and integrated amplifiers - a couple of years ago. It is these that we will be learning about today.

The company approached the development of their equipment with typical Scandinavian thoroughness: after numerous listening tests they chose only the best components, paying special attention to the channel separation and the signal-noise ratio. This also had an impact on the equipment - balanced inputs and outputs are required. The company's engineers are not, as they say, "too fussed" about the appearance of the firm's equipment, preferring to spend resources and effort on achieving high-quality and enduring sound.

The CD One and Amplifier One that we tested appear to us unpretentious: fairly simple metal cases with slots

for ventilation and black Plexiglas inserts on the front panels, which cover the information displays. However, in the silver model of the range they look neater.

After connecting this system to our reference speakers, we immediately appreciate the lightness with which the Amplifier One controls them and supplies sound to them, fully corresponding

**"The system confidently reproduces the inspiration and grandeur of Tchaikovsky's Concerto №1"**

to their higher price bracket. The system confidently reproduces the inspiration and grandeur of Tchaikovsky's *Concerto №1* in the performance by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Seiji Ozawa. The piano played by soloist A. Volodos is superbly focused, every note coming over clearly and with feeling. The detail

## THE COMPANY

In 1979 three Swedes called David, Leif and Stefan set up a company which manufactured components used in broadcasting equipment. Then in 1985 they moved into car sound systems, selling high-end components under the brand name DLS, aiming to create competition for the Japanese corporate brands, and achieved great success. The main developer and innovator of the firm is one of their founders - David Koniariski.

Interestingly, in the autumn of 2009 in Rotterdam at the European competition for car sound systems and tuners, EMMA 2009, first place in the most prestigious category

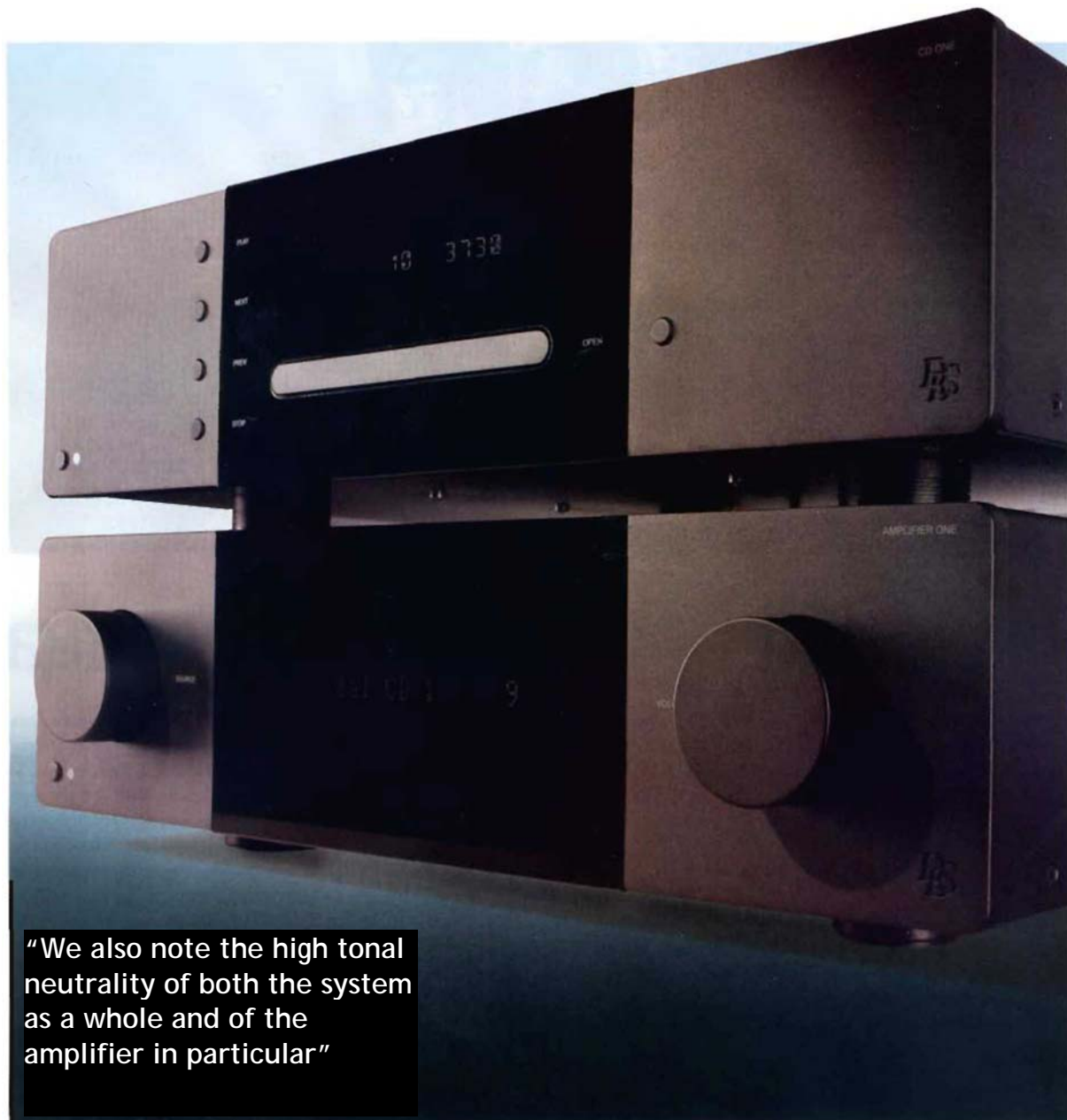
of Sound Quality Expert Unlimited was won by Dmitry Matveev, whose Ford S-Max was fitted with DLS audio components.



"The sound of the Concert seemed just as we expected from Revel's products"



"Energy will be a good way to finish off systems with electronics that tend towards brightness in the sound"



**SACD-  
PLAYER CD ONE**  
reproduces CD, SACD, DVD-Audio  
OUTPUTS analogue XLR, 2 RCA;  
digital optical, coaxial MEMORY No  
CD-TEXT No DIMENSIONS  
(LxW xH) 13x43x43 cm  
WEIGHT 6.8 kg

**AMPLIFIER ONE INTEGRATED**  
AMPLIFIER POWER 2x100 Wt (into 8  
Ohm)  
Line INPUTS XLR, 4 RCA  
Through channel 1 OUTPUT  
PRE-AMPLIFIER Yes OUTPUT  
To speakers 1 DIMENSIONS  
(LxWxH) 13x43x43 cm WEIGHT  
16.8 kg

"We also note the high tonal neutrality of both the system as a whole and of the amplifier in particular"

is reproduced equally well in both the loudest passages and in the very quiet and thoughtful piano modulations. We will also note the high tonal neutrality of both the system as a whole and of the amplifier in particular. For all that, we are used to getting more from our reference (and much more expensive) audio setup, but, after replacing the CD One with an Esoteric X-03, we detect that the sound becomes quite comparable with the one that we rely on for our tests.

But to make a fairer comparison if we take the Rega Saturn CD-player with a similar price, (incidentally,

a great favorite of ours), then it turns out that CD One does not fall short at all and is even out in front in terms of detail and definition of the transitions. This is expressed in high analyticity with some detriment to the musicality, but overall it does not impact on the fascination and endurance of the listening experience. A very good piece of equipment for vocals - be it Anna Netrebko, Tory Amos or Tom Jones. Their images are highly natural, with a clear articulation and excellent delivery of intonation. And a CD with the songs of the latter two singers allows us to give due credit to the rhythmicity and bass capabilities of the system.

We will not forget that the DLS player also reproduces SACDs, however no significant difference is observed. The same can be said of the balance and asymmetry of the connections.

CD One and Amplifier One will become excellent companions to the most diverse speakers, except those tending to inflexibility in their sound. It is worth bearing in mind that they will reveal their talents right up to the end after weeks of operation - as the manufacturer anticipates. To tell the truth, even we liked them more and more as we listened, although it did not last long.