

Überhaupt SACD?

Exploration of audio at digital resolutions higher than CD began in the late 1980s, arising from a wealth of interdependent sources including listening experiences, rapid technical advances, an appreciation of psychoacoustics, acoustic measurement, and the ethos that music recording should capture the full range of audible sound. High-resolution formats were developed and incorporated into successive generations of distribution media from DVD, SACD, Blu-ray, to internet downloads and now to streaming. A continuing debate throughout has been whether, and especially why, higher resolutions should be audibly ever.

That HighRes sounds better than CD only became clear after the introduction of low jitter clocks as the *rutgerS'Clock*. An SACD performs better than a CD. No doubt about that (see 'Perceptie van Distorsie'), but it highly depends on the player used. I tried 2 Sony- and 2 Marantz players which showed this, **BUT....** There is a great but: *if the player in quest is able to play the hybrid SACD under test.*

Very often the both Sony's responded with 'No disk' in SACD-mode as the both Marantz's with: 'Can't play', independent of the disk offered to them.

This makes SACD unreliable, so that upgrading an SACD-player is doubtful. I do not know why SACD has been flopped in the market (perhaps the difference in quality between CD and CACD did not become clear with the players as they are) but if I had known this in advance, I could have saved the effort to upgrade the electronics.

I started these informative projects because my Philips CD640 became so beautiful and I possess a number of SACDs and I will still try to upgrade one of the Marantz's for SACD only, with a low jitter clock. A TentLabs clock on 33 MHz makes already a great difference and DSD (from the SACD transport) does not need a digital filter as with PCM from CD, so....

Conclusion

Do not transform an SACD player to a better player by upgrading the complicated hardware because the laser unit refuses viewing to often. For HiRes one could concentrate on streaming.