

# SILENT ANGEL BONN N8 PRO NETWORK SWITCH

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If one remains open and aware to the fact that change is inevitable, whether to one personally or to the world at large and beyond, and one eschews stultifying ideologies that censure or block change and any new or relevant information, then one can be assured of continued growth and discovery and life.

Change can happen on many levels and in many timelines—geological, generational, yearly, and immediate. Remaining open, unlike the amplifier manufacturer for example who staunchly believed that wires/

a rather interesting experience which confirmed my notion of just how much one doesn't know and how much one still has to learn. Needless to say, the Bonn N8 Pro was eyeopening.

REFRAIN: Unlike most reviews, this review will be non-sequential, as it will start, below, with how the equipment actually sounds and not the process of physically “undressing” it and/or laying out its various parts, specifications, etc. Think of this review then, as a non-linear movie—*Memento*, *Kill Bill*, *Arrival*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*,



cables are “snake oil”, can truly lead one to quite wonderful revelations.

This is but a fancy way of saying that though I had exceptional experience with the Silent Angel Rhein Z1 Streamer and Forester F2 Linear Power Supply duo, the idea of a network switch bringing to bear anything other than very marginal change or any improvement, at all, was doubtful, though I remained open.

And this brings me to the review of the Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro Network Switch,

*The Terminator*, *In the Shadow of the Moon*, *The Queen's Gambit*, etc—that, likewise, starts at the end and winds its way to the beginning.

## THE SOUND

I plugged the Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro into the system, attached the various ethernet cables, plugged it into the Forester F2 Linear Power Supply, and I let it all settle for a while.

Two days later, I came back, plugged myself into the system (System 1) and



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experienced a bit of a shock, which led to a few minutes of drooling catatonia. Well, not quite, but it was, indeed, an immediate revelation.

Regardless of the price point and the system tested to utilize the Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro Network Switch there was always, and I do mean always, noticeable improvement. Whether the Silent Angel “Tiny Tots”—Munich M1 and Forester F1 (review coming)—served as source or the

‘treble+’ to midrange to sub-bass is, well, “more” in every respect. More?

That which was quasi-intelligible—certain choral segments, instruments at depth within a given orchestral soundstage, a singer’s barely audible phrasing, the singing of birds offstage (Olafur Arnalds, “Arbakkinn”, *Island Songs*, Mercury KX), etc.—is now clear, has entered the mix earlier than previously heard, and is also more transparent and better resolved. Given the current reference systems



Rhein Z1 and Forester F2, or the Grimm Audio MU1 and Mola Mola Tambaqui DAC, the improvements were unmistakable. And my initial skepticism was put in check time and time again.

Suffice to say that there is an abundance of clarity with the Bonn N8 Pro serving as network switch, and said clarity diminishes when the Bonn N8 Pro is removed from the system. Further, the frequency spectrum from

(see “Systems”) this was surprising. And it speaks clearly to the point that all segments, even the ethernet switch and ethernet cables, need to be well regarded and tended to.

But that revelation was but one of several. Tone and timbre became more natural, more, well, musical and involving. And while this was certainly true of the top reference systems, it was also true of the Silent Angel Rhein Z1 and Forester F2 combo, and their

siblings the ‘Tiny-Tots’—Munich M1 and Forester F1—to no small degree. Further, the stage became more real—intimate, up close and personal, if the track called for that, or vast and deep, with improved layering and positioning, as there was now more information—microdynamics, detail, relative ambiance, etc.—available.

Yes, I know, “it’s a network switch for

region to the subterranean, Holy-Bass-Head-Grail bottom. This, as most know, is no small feat and the Bonn N8 Pro was always up to the task.

## THE CONCLUSION

The Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro is a must whether you own other Silent Angel products or not, as it is quite fastidious with



criing out loud!” This represents yet another instance where I had thought only minor improvements would be forthcoming, and, as for the better systems at the cutting edge, “what could they learn?” Quite a bit it seems. Though the Bonn N8 Pro also has an internal clock which, no doubt, contributed to the substantive improvement of musical playback whenever the Bonn N8 Pro was utilized.

For the purposes of this review, I will not evaluate the Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro across the various differentiated frequency regions—treble, midrange, bass—for the simple fact that improvement was consistently noted from the tip-top treble

regard to eliminating noise at the ‘entry point’ of one’s streaming system via optimized components, build quality, and an internal word clock. That said, having experienced the synergy between the various Silent Angel products, it is easy to comprehend an A to Z engineering/programming, via R&D, that targets optimization among ‘siblings’.

The long, slim, almost wafer-like component provides a cover that does not at all begin to tell its most profound story—if you are not already networked-switched and ‘clocked’ to the max, your system will experience improvement, period.

In terms of awards, I would say that the Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro lifts the Rhein Z1



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and the Forester F2 having already won the Golden KeyNote Award to the apex of this award scope. Will the Silent Angel new dedicated Word Clock—Genesis GX—move things to the next award level?

Pros: A product that will level up most systems and all systems that are not currently using a network switch with a built-in word clock.

Cons: None.

[Note: Did not apply the Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro to the reference two-channel system, so the above refers solely to headphone listening.]

## THE COMPANY

Thunder Data, Co., Ltd.  
Silent Angel Bonn N8 Pro: \$1,499

Thunder Data Co., Ltd  
[www.silent-angel-audio.com](http://www.silent-angel-audio.com)

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