

loudspeaker company. The partnership was short lived and within a year the amplifier was renamed the **SUGDEN A21**.

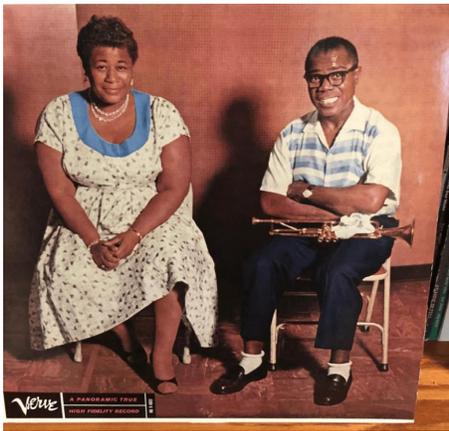


Description

The modern **A21SE Signature** integrated amplifier is still a transistor, pure Class A amplifier. According to Sugden Audio, the SE Sig is a special edition that builds on the strengths of the classic A21. While it is a more modern class A single ended amp, the sound remains distinctively ‘Sugden’. Upgraded with a fifty percent larger power supply and increased power output, the dynamics are even more impressive. A sophisticated pre-amplifier stage is another improvement on the A21SE.

The A21SE Sig has five line-level inputs operated by relays. It has one preamp output and one fixed tape out. It also has high-quality RCA inputs and a five-way binding post. Both channels have their own transformer windings and relay-switched source selection.





Ella and Louis

This is one of the greatest recordings of all time. If you don't believe there is spatial and staging information on mono recordings just listen to this LP. On track 2, "*Isn't This a Lovely Day*," the A21SE Signature let me hear the beauty and lushness of Ella and the gravely power of Louie Armstrong. The voices are really lifelike, but the horn was a little too polite. I don't want to overstate the case because I ended up listening to the whole album.

Final Thoughts

No amp is perfect and neither is the Sugden A21SE Signature. In my opinion, though, it's as perfect as you are going to get for less than \$7,500. My reference **LTA MZ3 preamp** and **First Watt SIT 3** amp beat the A21SE Signature at its own game, but hold on just a minute. Using both a preamp and an amp means that I have to add another **Audience powerChord** and **Au24SX interconnects**, which then means that my reference costs three times as much as the A21SE Signature.

Let me close by saying that if you love to experience the emotions of music, you will love this amp!