



ZANDEN 2500S CD PLAYER

Reviewed by Roy Gregory



Ever since spending time with Zanden's amazing (and amazingly expensive) four-box CD player, I've been champing at the bit to get a hold of the half-the-price, one-box design. Fleeting glimpses of the stunningly beautiful prototype merely sharpened that desire, whilst a string of delays heaped on the frustration. All in all, a far from ideal backdrop against which to make one's entrance: after all, if you fail to meet expectations then that longer than expected wait is going to add significantly to the backlash. Yet the Model 2500S arrived, it was seen, it was heard and it duly conquered, a performance that's all the more impressive because it treads a very different musical path to the four-box we know and love.

Sweeter, rounder and more forgiving than its bigger brother, the 2500S trades the absolute musical authority of the four-box for an altogether more seductive presentation. Indeed, this has to be the most musically seductive player I've ever used. But this is no warm and wooly cuddle-fest. That enticing quality is down to the player's sense of fluidity and communication, its way with a musical line, the life it breathes into a performance. It's a machine that sounds as beautiful as it looks, making listening almost addictive in the process. It deals with the senses: the sense and beauty in the performance. Beauty is as beauty does – and this one-box Zanden is nothing if not beautiful!

Price: £17490

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Manufacturer: Zanden Audio Systems Ltd. www.zandenaudio.com