

## STEREO/SYSTEMS

Hybrid Theory

Mission Mv4 Loudspeakers/NAD C715 Compact Music System

### VITAL STATS

#### **Mission Mv4**

Enclosure Type	2-way reflex
Frequency Response	45Hz-20kHz ( $\pm$ 3dB)
Sensitivity	88dB (SPL/M @ 2.83V)
Impedance	8 ohm
Dimensions (HxWxD)	295 x 188 x 290 mm

#### **NAD C715**

Power Output	2 x 25 watts (at 1kHz, EIAJ) 6 ohm
Signal to noise ratio	>-90dB
Tuner	Yes, 30AM/30FM preset station memory
Inputs	3 analogue stereo
Outputs	1x analogue/1x digital
Dimensions (WxHxD)	215 x 110 x 359 mm

**VERDICT** The C715 is a simple, relatively powerful device for those looking for an easy, compact solution to their analogue or digital music needs. Balanced with the right set of speakers, it's a good performer in somewhat of a niche' category.

#### **PRICE**

Mission Mv4 R1 880

NAD C715 R3 990

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Why send a man to do what a machine can do? This is the nature of things these days as engineering constantly searches for ways to streamline our rapidly accelerating world. So naturally, in the same tone, "Why send six machines to do what 1 machine can do?"

Hybridisation has been the natural evolutionary path of most of the machines we interact with in our day-to-day lives. From simple pairings, such as a clock and a radio, to handsets that multi-task as phones, computers, cameras, media players and the occasional paper-weight...assuming you have one that's still heavy enough.

It's evolution, and as much as I love the concept, I'm always a little sceptical of a device that claims to be a universal solution to whatever my needs may be. Sort of a quantity versus quality scenario!

When the C715 arrived on my desk, I have to admit, it did nothing to excite me. It didn't look like the futuristically styled, multi-coloured thing I had puzzled together in my mind from other such devices in its category. No bright packaging displaying its 1000 and 1 uses, just a black box in the typical NAD "form follows function" fashion.

However, this trademark of the brand has never hampered its reputation for producing some of the very best performing hi-fi musical equipment on the market. I knew the excitement lay within.

The C715 is a 2 x 25 watts universal hi-fi receiver in the compact music system category. It incorporates an AM/FM tuner and a full function CD player with connections for extra digital and analogue devices on the front and back panels. One of these being a USB port which allows the transfer of music files from your C715 to any storage device or digital music player with a USB port. In turn, the USB devices also serve as a source for playback, making your entire digital music collection accessible.

Coupled with a pair of Mission Mv-4 loudspeakers, which were specially chosen for this review, my initial uncertainty about the C715's performance were laid to rest. While not designed to be the loudest piece of equipment, there is plenty of clean, distortion-free sound all the way through to the volume level peak. The CD player performed its job with precision, and its various programme functions were easy and straightforward. Very simple! Very NAD!

The same can be said for the tuner, which was a breeze to sort through and comes with an RDS programme-type function, which finds similar programmes according to genre. Something I always like playing with.

In my playing around, I attached my iPod (via stereo jack input) to it, a turntable, my computer and my television. I watched movies, recorded music off the radio and even rigged the system up to my music production software. All round it performed very satisfactorily. Nothing blew me away, but then again nothing disappointed. I did have a bit of a problem with the USB function however. It wouldn't read my iPod or hard-drives through the USB port, for some reason.

The devilishly handsome Mv-4s delivered everything with pace and relative precision, and although a little woolly and fuzzy at max volume I'm sure that disappears in the company of higher-spec amplifiers. The tweeters are smooth and sharp without being ferociously piercing, while the bass seemed balanced and clean. Everything that came out of them was pleasant and rich, and even though I said it's not the loudest hi-fi set-up in the world, it IS loud. Loud enough for the neighbours to label you as, "that person with the loud music"!

To look at, the Mv-4s are a tad prettier than the receiver. Although also simple and understated, the front design gives it a touch of zing without making it look cheap. They're solidly built and heavy enough to be taken seriously as soon as you pick one up. Compared to other speakers in the same price range, Mission really have packed a lot into

this series and they're a great choice for any music lover on a budget to consider.

As a pair, the two played very well together. I know that the speakers could have been stretched a lot further but that's another story for another time. I imagine a set-up like this would work well in an office or a small apartment for those looking to save space while still having a solid, multi-functional music system. I loved the convenience of the C715 and its ease of use. NAD has really done a good job of giving you options while still keeping everything simple and affordable.

Justin Beachcroft-Shaw