

HOME THEATRE/AV RECEIVERS

Power to the people
NAD T765

VITAL STATS

Channels	7
Power output	7 x 80 (7 x 100 watts) "FTC"
Surround sound formats	Dolby Digital, Dolby Digital EX, ProLogic II, ProLogic IIx, DTS, DTS ES, DTS 24/96, DTS NEO: 6, EARS and Stereo Enhanced Surround Modes
DSP chips	Burr-Brown 24-bit, 192 kHz (x5)
Frequency response	5 Hz -- 20 kHz
Signal-to-noise ratio	100 dB
HDMI inputs/outputs	3/1 HDMI 1.3 freely assignable
AV inputs/outputs	6/3
Audio inputs/outputs	7/ 7.2
Digital inputs/outputs	7/2

VERDICT Big, bold and comprehensively equipped.

PRICE R18800

SUPPLIED BY AV Specialists 021-946-1441

There has been quite a bit of news in the media about the success of NAD's Master Series range.

These products not only raised performance standards and expectations, their design also led to enhancements throughout the NAD product range, with practically all products, including the T765 AV receiver on review here, being receiving Master Series innovations.

On first glance, the T765 looks like a fairly standard AV receiver.

It is attractive, it has all the bells and whistles one expects to find at its price point, and its rear panel is reasonably well laid out. It's even equipped with multizone capability for up to three zones and is supplied with a second zone remote.

On the HD front, it features no less than three HDMI inputs -- although these are assignable throughputs and the receiver doesn't upscale or decode data from these inputs -- and the T765 cross converts all analogue video inputs too. iPod fans will be pleased to note that there is even a port for connecting it to an NAD iPod dock.

Just like many of its competitors, the T765 features Audyssey auto set-up, and it is supplied with a learning remote control. The remote does however feature backlighting, is relatively large, and the most used buttons are easily accessible.

An area where the T765 stood above quite a few competitors was in power delivery, and when I checked the unit's power specs after completing my review, I was surprised at how modestly NAD rated the T765 as far as power was concerned.

This modesty I was to learn had a name, and the name was 'PowerDrive' amplifier technology.

The foundation of PowerDrive is a dual rail power supply that according to NAD delivers optimised internal voltage levels especially during the most demanding conditions. NAD also list their power ratings within fairly strict distortion limits and with all channels driven into reactive loads, and this means that power claims are readily achievable in real world conditions.

Before moving onto detail the T765's audio prowess, I'm now going to speak a little about set-up.

This is fairly straight forward as all inputs are assignable, and you can configure the T765 to use just about any of its audio or video inputs and outputs.

In order to configure the receiver and to do calibration, you need to hook it up to a monitor, and it's here that you pick up a slight issue with the T765 HDMI connections.

As the receiver doesn't add onscreen information to its HDMI output, you need to feed your new HD monitor with an analogue video cable from the T765 if you want to see the unit's OSD. This means that you aren't going to get away with only connecting one cable to your monitor. Of course, if you don't have a television with HDMI inputs, you will only need to connect one analogue video cable -- be this component, composite or S-Video -- between the T765 and television.

Once you have video going to a television, the actual set-up and assigning process is reasonably easy.

As per usual, I used the T765's auto set-up feature, and once this was complete, I checked on its settings and tweaked where necessary.

I've already noted that the T765 sounded far more powerful than its specifications suggested it should, and this power was most notable in how dynamic the amplifier sounded. Sure, I could get it to sound a little strained, but this was only at silly volume levels.

Importantly, the power and dynamics of surround sound was carried over to stereo where music was as detailed and precise as one could want. The stereo stage was however not quite as deep as I've heard on some competitor's receivers.

If you're happy with running a HDMI cable to your monitor for video, and a video cable for the NAD's OSD, and you want an AV receiver that out muscles its higher power rated opposition, is generally more dynamic in its sonic delivery, and is reasonably easy to set up and looks good too, then the T765 may be for you.

Joel Kopping