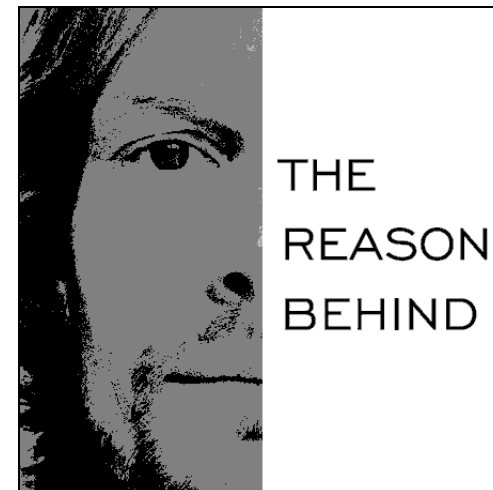


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TUNDRA

Special thanks

Tundra would not have been possible without my mentor in electronics: **Andreas Wahlberg**, MD of Tunerlux AB. Andreas is not only a brilliant engineer, he's a real wizard with electronics and has filed a bunch of patents. Many times he's cracked the nut open for me when I've been stuck with a problem.

Tundra: An exercise in precision

A little known fact about how to achieve the highest possible performance from a HiFi system is that it's never about perfecting a single important detail. It's always about perfecting as many details as possible. This is true for everything from system installations to the manufacturing of components.

It's not overly difficult to make an amplifier that sounds nice or even spectacular. But to make an amplifier that lets the music reach out and touch you, one has to optimise every detail and make all parts of the design interact in a fluent, harmonious way.

I started working seriously on power amplifiers in 2010. For some reason, my mind was initially stuck on how a power amp needs to deliver enough voltage and current to the loudspeaker. In other words: Power. Nearly all the audio gurus that have put their ideas in print emphasise the power issue of power amps (the name implies it, does it not?). My results with this strategy were not fully convincing. Although the sound was good, the music simply didn't reach out and touch me.

Late in 2010, a seemingly obvious idea struck me: My focus should be on **signal preservation** instead of power delivery. Why? Because the closer to the source, the larger the impact of quality on our musical satisfaction. We'd rather listen to Dylan playing the harmonica in a noisy bathroom, than to a decent interpreter of Dylan in a quiet concert hall.

This apparently simple change of viewpoint made me look at everything from a different angle. Instead of focusing on the output stage, I put all my efforts into the input and driving stage, attempting to keep the quality of the signal preserved for as long as possible in its journey through the amplifier. Finally, I added an output stage that interacted harmoniously with the preceding circuits.

The first Tundra prototype was born in January 2011. During 2011, it was optimised in every way I could think of: Currents, voltages, temperatures, layout, connectors, cabling, directions, torques, mechanical issues and damping. Every critical component was bought in large numbers, then manually measured, one by one, in purpose-built test rigs and divided into groups with ridiculously small variations. Finally, two switch mode power supplies replaced the conventional transformer.

At first, this extremely optimised Tundra wasn't intended to be released as a commercial product. I considered it too impractical to manufacture. It was an exercise in precision, to see how far I could get. But a friend convinced me that I should manufacture and sell it *exactly* the way it was. I am very thankful that he did.

Tundra was released in April 2012.