



Outstanding

Thank goodness for the simplification of this unit. If perhaps the only thing I ever griped about Yamaha kit was their ability to put me in total control of the sound product I wanted tailored to suit me. But I had to do it. In other words, you could have everything you wanted provided you had a degree to figure it all out – matching inputs with decoding techniques. It sounds easy. It wasn't! It's been steadily improving however to the point where on this latest iteration we're now at a "push this button, stupid" idiot proof stage of development.

Not that I don't enjoy understanding the technology and what it does and how it does it – I am an engineer after all – but for my friends and acquaintances, the likely buyers of these products (and thus the likely readers of my reviews) it is important not to only understand the hobby, but to integrate it as easily as possible into everyday usage.



Of course, if you are a propeller head the nuances and intricacies of setting up the system to a precise balance that suits you (but probably sounds terrible to everyone else) is possible – actually not difficult via the OSD menu system – but frankly technology in this arena has marched on so quickly that you no longer have to negotiate intricate, badly put together menus, to try and get your DVD player to work with the sound field system being fed to it. Nowadays the technology only requires you to understand the format you are feeding to your system and to click through the remote to match it – and away you go.

You can fine tune all the important things, like your sub levels, or your front channel – quickly and easily. But as with all the finer, natty Yamaha products these days, the V765 comes with its own plug-in microphone that you locate at your listening position and tell the thing to do its thing. And a short while later the unit has calibrated itself to your



Vital Stats

room better than you could ever hope to.

Maybe I'm getting older. Or lazier. But I don't recall systems like this where the 'go baby go' sound out of the box after setup was ever as good as this. I recall spending hours playing 'set up, set up' with black boxes and tweaking speaker positions and moving heavy furniture to get the sound field to the way I wanted it. Perhaps I do feel a little robbed of the effort previously required to achieve a great sounding system – the sweat from one's brow gave at least a sense of achievement in the effort exerted. You felt as if you had worked for it.

Today, though, all the sweat you'll generate is that from standing too close to the popcorn machine. The sheer plethora of supported formats has been reduced to flicking through a few handy remote control buttons and sitting back to listen. It's technology simplified, made understandable, and it's technology that delivers a better experience of home movies.

At 95 watts a channel the V765 has guts aplenty. It drives with verve, vigour and enthusiasm, and the application of power to each channel is authoritative. There is more power here than will ever be practically used, yet this power is not raw and rough. It's refined and elegant, a deft mix of control and musicality that Yamaha are justifiably proud to claim as their own. In the V765 you have a machine that can control your

Channels7.1
Power output95 watts x 7
Surround sound formats
Dolby True HD and below,
 1080p upscaling
DSP chipsBurr-Brown 192 kHz/
 24-bit DACs for all channels
Frequency response20 Hz – 20 kHz
HDMI inputs/outputs4 in 1 out
AV inputs/outputs8x RCA in,
 2x component video in,
 1x component video out
Audio inputs/outputs7x RCA out
Digital inputs/outputs
2x coax in, 2x optical in,
Dimensions (WxHxD)
435x172x365mm
Weight11 kg

PRICER8 880

VERDICT

Another unit from Yamaha reflecting a refinement in the usage of technology. Only digital inputs now supported.

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sonic environment to a degree that a few years ago just wouldn't have been possible.

Better than that, this is a receiver that is all things to all people. You can connect an optional iPod dock so that your teenage daughter can drop in her iPod and assault your delicate sensibilities with whatever rubbish it is that these people listen to these days. It's a fairly decent radio receiver (yes, radio is still around). It's better than good at standard stereo CD music with a pure direct function (which turns the receiver into a straight forward amplifier bypassing all the electronic circuitry) and it's devastatingly brilliant as a video home theatre receiver (its primary purpose).

It's almost enough to make one forget why it's on review in the first place. Oh yes, we wanted to know what it sounded like (you will note our reversion to the third person). We wonder aloud to ourselves just how much this matters anymore these days? That is, until we turn it on when we recall, instantly, that no matter what technology is inside these monsters today, our ears still have to be satiated with their fill of their daily addiction of music.

So how does the Yamaha rate on this most important of all fronts? Well. I suppose you could just try take it away from us. If you don't really value your life that is.

Grrrrrr. Doggie's got a new bone....

William Kelly

