



Nice, but not earth shattering.

Its network capability, DLNA certification, ability to tune into Internet radio and even USB inputs are also nice features...but they're not too unique anymore either.

Let's now move onto those features that I really liked, with number one being the relative ease of set-up and the good looking graphical user interface. I sometimes find that user interfaces are too clever for their own good.

Whilst still on the subject of set-up, I liked the DSP Z7's auto calibration system with three-legged microphone placement tool that was much easier to use than having to do 27 measurements in different parts of the room that other systems require. I even agreed with practically all settings, too.

Next up there is the remote control that, hooray, hooray, looked reasonably good – even though I still think Denon's take on simplifying remotes is a little better – and much more



importantly it's backlit so I could actually use the remote in the dark.

Lots of AV receivers do video processing, but few do this as well as the DSP Z7, and the fact that I could give it any video input and have the images scaled, pampered and buffed to look pretty decent on the television screen was a big plus point. Not even the big Daddy DSP Z11 does this.

Let's now move onto sound quality. And as I've said already, I'm not going to use

superlatives, as I don't think I have to. What I do have to say is that listening to and watching movies from mostly DVD was always an enjoyable experience. This meant that the amplifiers and relevant processors were doing their jobs in delivering audio to my ears that was good enough for me to want to continue sitting in the studio, working hard to test the capabilities of the DSP Z7.

I even enjoyed listening to stereo music, but here I thought, Yamaha's own dedicated stereo gear did a slightly better job of conveying more nuances to music.

Finally what I really liked about the DSP Z7 was that the technology packed into the attractive case work was not difficult to use: in fact it slipped into the background and let me watch and listen with ease.

So there you have it, a superlative-free review. Sometimes by saying less you say more.

**Joel Kopping**

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