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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Attention

# ***Clock those valves!***

*PrimaLuna's brilliant new CD player sports a valve-based  
Super Clocking Device to make music sound stunning*





## PrimaLuna ProLogue Eight CD player

Valve amp specialist PrimaLuna has created an extraordinary CD player at an extraordinary price. The ProLogue Eight harnesses the company's expertise in valve-equipped audio design to incredible effect, incorporating the world's first valve-based data clocking device: the Super Tube Clock. As a result, the player boasts exceptional jitter performance and a sound that combines clarity, space, pace, excellent timing and realistic dynamics in a thoroughly engaging musical package... and all for the distinctly reasonable price of £1,590! Quite frankly, this player sounds better than many at twice the price.

### Detail

PrimaLuna's revolutionary Super Tube Clock is at the heart of the ProLogue Eight's performance. By incorporating a low-noise mini-triode valve into the digital clock, this boldly conceived player delivers superior resolution and detail retrieval, with increased clarity and definition. Jitter levels are exceptional low, even by modern standards – a fact easily verified by measuring its performance in the lab. (For a brief explanation about data clocks and jitter – what they are and why they're important to digital audio – please see the 'Q&A' section towards the end of this press release.)

The ProLogue Eight is a true dual-mono design, right down to the dual valve rectification – another first for a CD player. High-grade internal components are used throughout, with exceptional attention to detail within each element of its circuit design. The power supply is another distinguishing feature, adapted from PrimaLuna's multi-award-winning ProLogue Three preamp. High-quality resistors, mosfets and Solen capacitors throughout yield superior transient response, detail and channel separation.

But while key elements of the PrimaLuna's design are all about fusing the old with the new – traditional high-end audio valves and new ways of harnessing them – other components are strictly state-of-the-art. Burr-Brown upsampling circuitry and digital-to-analogue converters add to the mix, helping to make the most of the digital data that's read from the disc, before it's passed into the analogue domain.

While the ProLogue Eight's internal design is unique, its resulting external design is equally appealing. Glowing glass valves protrude intriguingly from hand-rubbed, high-gloss black metalwork, coupled to a thick aluminium faceplate available in either silver or black. A quick-release protective valve cage is included in the price, as is a substantial, brushed-aluminium remote handset, completing a high-class package at a highly appealing price.



## Key features

- Dual-mono, zero-feedback output stage using two valves per channel (one 12AX7 and one 12AU7)
- Vacuum tube rectified power supply adapted from the award-winning ProLogue Three preamp, incorporating eleven separate power supply regulation circuits
- State-of-the-art Burr-Brown SRC4192 upsampling circuit and Burr-Brown PCM1792 DACs
- Super Tube Clock ultra-low jitter clocking device - exclusive to PrimaLuna
- Custom-designed isolation transformers separate the analogue and digital devices for reduced signal degradation
- Analogue output: one pair RCA phono
- Digital outputs: one coaxial and one optical
- Heavy-gauge, anodized, brushed-aluminum remote handset - controls all important CD operations plus key functions of other PrimaLuna components; supplied with rubber rings on both ends to protect furniture
- Hand rubbed, high-gloss finish available with silver or black faceplate. Quick release tube cage also included

## Price and availability

The PrimaLuna ProLogue Eight CD player is available now, priced at £1,590.

## Some brief questions answered

### What is a 'data clocking device'?

A clock is an electronic oscillator that is used to generate a timing reference signal. It is an element that is critical to CD player design, as it is used to synchronise the data being taken off the disc. Get it wrong and jitter occurs.

### What is jitter?

Jitter is a term used to describe an insidious distortion that is specific to digital audio. It is caused by the clock, which is used to regulate the conversion of data into analogue audio, being imprecise. CD player design has advanced to the point that most models now offer low jitter performance, but in even small quantities it can have a significant effect on sound, typically making it more 'cloudy' and less distinct. The ProLogue Eight's jitter performance is exceptionally low, contributing to the player's excellent sound quality.



### **Are CD players still valid?**

For most music fans, the answer is an emphatic ‘yes’! Most of us have amassed sizable CD collections over the years, and dedicated CD players from specialist manufacturers are much the best way to make the most of them. Sure, other ways of distributing, storing and playing back music – via the internet, for example – are becoming more prevalent, and will inevitably take over from CD as the primary mechanisms by which the majority of consumers obtain new music. But if you’ve got CDs, and you want to hear them at their best, nothing comes close to a high-quality CD player.

### **Why use valves in a CD player?**

It might seem oxymoronic to take a digital music format like CD and use ‘old-fashioned’ analogue valve technology to improve its sound. After all, the first thermionic valve was invented back in 1904 and was the first-ever active electronic component; the descendants of this valve were used in audio equipment long before transistors were a mere twinkle in a scientist’s eye. However, when valves are used intelligently in audio design, they continue to bring certain sonic qualities that more modern solid-state technologies often struggle to match.

In the case of CD players that use valves, the valves themselves are usually included in the output stage. This is the part of the CD player that prepares the audio signal for conveyance to an amplifier, having been converted from the digital domain into analogue (this digital-to-analogue conversion is a job that all CD players perform). Although far from usual, there are a number of players on the market that use valves in the output stage, the general idea being to inject an element of the creamy fluidity that valve-based audio exudes into the sound of a digital source.

The ProLogue Eight includes high-quality valves in its output stage and this, combined with its circuit design and implementation, is critical to the way it sounds. It also uses a valve in its data clocking system, which is unique to this player.

## **RELEASE ENDS/NO EMBARGO**

### **More about PrimaLuna**

Good quality valve-based amplification has a smooth, organic quality that ordinary solid-state amps can’t match; yet for many people the price tags can seem prohibitively high. Hailing from The Netherlands, PrimaLuna amps are designed to bring this magical, effusive sound quality to more affordable price points, without compromising on build quality, features or performance.



Now incorporating its first CD player, PrimaLuna's range continues to expand. Its products have earned excellent reviews from many of the world's most respected audio journals, including *Hi-Fi News*, *Stereophile* and *The Absolute Sound*, the latter publication presenting PrimaLuna with its prestigious Golden Ear Award.

## More about Pistol Music – the UK distributor for Sonus Faber loudspeakers

Pistol Music is a division of Absolute Sounds Ltd, created to cater for the distribution of a handpicked range of valve-based audio products that offer excellent value for money, without sonic compromise.

Absolute Sounds is the UK's premier importer of high-quality hi-fi and home cinema equipment. The company was formed in 1978 by Ricardo Franassovici, who left a successful career in the music industry to become one of the world's leading hi-fi entrepreneurs. Ricardo's burning desire has always been to give UK-based music fans the opportunity to experience audio at the highest level, cherry-picking the very best components from around the globe to deliver a 'hi-fi boutique' overflowing with highly covetable, high-performance products. Like the finest watches and most prestigious motorcars, these brands deliver finely tuned, supremely engineered products that simply ooze desirability.

*If you are seeking the world's best hi-fi and home cinema equipment, Absolute Sounds is your first port of call.*

## Consumer contact (suitable for publication)

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