

Dynamic Efficiency

Phil Bond Reviews NEW **Forté** A-BUS Amplification

As the Canadian distributor for Russound for many years, I am a big admirer of A-BUS technology, selling many millions of dollars of A-BUS products into the new home construction and commercial distributed audio markets. The high reliability of A-BUS, its flexibility and ease of installation made it a joy to sell.



If there was any criticism of the technology, it is a false perception of a lack of power output. Those who actually install the system know this is unfounded, particularly in light of its excellent sound quality, delivering loss-free signal to each room via CAT5 cable.

When Andrew Goldfinch, inventor of A-BUS, asked me to test his new **Forté** brand **Dynamic Efficiency** (DE) technology, I was more than pleased to see what he had achieved. His literature claimed to deliver true audiophile performance as well as a 47% increase in power. When I set up the new AB-46 keypad on my test bench, I was blown away, the difference was so noticeable, it delivered a completely new level of quality, with more dynamics and an excellent stereo image. The power output is higher and very clean at high levels.

On the green side, A-BUS technology has always been an industry leader; however, by my measurement at normal listening levels, it appears to be drawing a lot less current than the old amplifier.

I was so intrigued I reached out to Andrew to learn more. I was told the new **DE** technology is based on a high power audio amplifier against previous limited low power units, attributable to the effortless ambience of the new AB-46 in **DE** mode. However, for those who have applications where higher power is preferred, the AB-46 can double its power output with the addition of a second run of CAT5 from

the hub. I tried this and was very impressed how easy it was to improve the sound even more by doubling up on the current. **High Dynamic Efficiency (HDE)** delivers deeper bass and improved dynamics, an ideal option for the more discerning listener or anyone who thinks more power is important.

I have always loved the 'plug and play' simplicity of A-BUS. It is so easy to tailor systems to individual requirements and it looks as though the **Forté** range of hubs have been designed for the **High Dynamic Efficiency (HDE)** option. For single source, **HDE** uses two A-BUS outputs. This is no problem because they are easily expandable with additional units and the multi-source hubs come standard with two A-BUS outputs per zone, requiring only a second cable.

Full benefit can also be achieved with an existing A-BUS system to **DE** performance by simply exchanging existing room units with the AB-46.

DE and **HDE** remind me why we have all loved A-BUS so much from the beginning - traditional MRA systems rely on long runs of speaker cable which limit sound quality going to each room, regardless of the quality of speakers used. A-BUS delivers audio signal to every room via CAT5 with no signal loss so, when **Forté** develops an exciting new amplifier technology like **Dynamic Efficiency**, the full benefit is delivered to the speakers - probably why I find the improvement so dramatic and effective.

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