

YAMAHA YSU-3 & YSL-3

The Mother of all Switching Units Text from <http://home.comcast.net/~val58/ysu.htm>



What is a switching unit? - Simply put, it allows you to connect every piece of stereo gear you've ever collected, all at once, and switch freely between any combination of components and any set of stereo speakers, up to 20! Internal Relay switches are used for everything so there is zero signal path loss and the power is unlimited.

Shown below the Ultra Rare YSU-3 Switching Unit, YSL-3 Speaker Level Control Unit, and Nixie Tube Speaker Indicator.



This not off' seen monstrosity boasts 40 pushbutton selection switches, 2 toggle switches with 3 indicator lights, 20 calibrated speaker level controls, illuminated VU meters, and a mind-blowing 53 dedicated Relay switches; (23 are inside the YSU and 30 more inside the YSL), madness.



~HISTORY~

The example shown was from the "HI-FI Stereo House" in Newington, CT (picture needed). It was in use there during the 70's and 80's. This was the area's hot spot for high end audio that had all the greats.. Marantz, Pioneer, Yamaha, McIntosh, Akai open Reel, Scott, you name it. In the 1960's, they showcased Scott tube equipment, a personal favorite of the owner.

Back in the day, this switch box was loaded up with high end components, allowing perspective buyers to select which turntable or Reel to Reel deck or what have you-- to be played through which amplifier, then to which set of 20 speakers! Because the no compromise design used relay switches, and leveling controls to equal the SPL of various speakers, it was a true test of the equipment being auditioned and had no power limitation. Some users spent hours pushing just the right combination of buttons to obtain their dream system.

According to the store owner, the Yamaha switcher was out of reach to the public, having a MSRP of \$9,600. in the 70's. Through a reciprocal Yamaha stocking, promotional, and sales agreement, the retailer was able to pull it off affordably and everyone including Yamaha won. These contraptions were a huge success to the industry.

I for one can vouch for using these sweet little pushbuttons and knobs until I had what I knew was the best combination of sounds for my ears. The idea of the YSL-3, or the (Yamaha Speaker Level) control unit was to correct for differences in SPL for different speakers. As everyone knows, many times when things are close, the louder speaker will prevail even if it's an inferior speaker. Ha! The YSL put an end to that nonsense. Now they were all on a level playing field, and with dedicated relays, that meant no worries about the pushbuttons becoming dusty or a signal path loss, etc., as they merely activate the encased shielded high quality relay. Brilliant.

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YAMAHA

