



# Astell & Kern A&ultima SP2000T

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**  
PERSONAL AUDIO ELECTRONICS



**A**stell & Kern is keeping the high-end Digital Audio Player flame lit. While other brands have come and gone, the South Korean DAP maker has stayed true, and produces ever higher performance models like this A&ultima SP2000T. Alongside A & K's normal op-amp output stage, the SP2000T is also fitted with dual-triode KORG Nutube 6P1 amplification. It also uses four ESS Sabre ES9068AS DACs, deploying two DACs per channel to deliver up to 32bit, 284kHz/DSD512 precision. The DAP features 256GB of onboard storage and can support 1TB MicroSD cards.

The A&ultima SP2000T is also extremely well appointed, both in terms of its wireless connectivity, elegant front panel screen, and outstanding industrial design lines.

Regardless of amplifier setting (Simon Lucas preferred 'Hybird') the DAP turned in a striking performance. "There's no two ways about it:" he

said, "the Astell & Kern A&ultima SP2000T is a staggeringly informative, thrillingly musical and thoroughly entertaining listen."

He felt that, "there is nuance previously unheard, harmonic variation previously unnoticed and space between sounds previously unobserved, all revealed by the SP2000T. Its attention to detail is getting on for fanatical." adding that, "If the most transient, fleeting aspects of a recording interest you as much as the entirety of a performance, this is the small-ish, chunky-ish portable music player for you."

"The amount of enjoyment the Astell & Kern offers is prodigious," Simon concluded, "It manages to balance a borderline-forensic analysis of a recording with a deep understanding of the same recording's primary purpose as a piece of entertainment"

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**Manufacturer • [astellinkern.com](http://astellinkern.com)**

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