



Yamaha RX-A1040

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hen we first encountered Yamaha's latest Aventure RX-A3040 AV receiver flagship, launched in the latter part of last year, we were impressed

by its mix of features, build quality and ease of use. But we also wondered just how much of its advanced tech would filter down into the more affordable Aventure models.

The RX-A1040 sits neatly in the middle of the five-strong Aventure range, and would appear to occupy something of a sweet spot as far as performance and features versus price is concerned.

As a glance at the vital stats shows, the A1040 comes very well equipped, with a more than ample power output, plenty of inputs, advanced digital-to-analogue conversion via the highly regarded ESS Sabre chip, powerful digital signal processing, and 4K video pass-through and upscaling.

Internet connectivity is another highlight, with both Ethernet and Wi-Fi on offer, and several music streaming services built in, although access remains market dependent. Internet radio is fully supported, augmenting the A1040's in-built tuner for conventional FM/AM broadcasts.

As we've come to expect of the Aventure models, build quality is impressively robust, with a thick all-metal fascia, and substantial casework. Yamaha's anti-resonance technology, which makes use of a fifth support in the centre of the receiver, provides integrated vibration damping.

Particular care has been taken in the design and layout of the circuitry. The A1040 features a symmetrical layout for the front left and right channels, while also focussing on optimised signal paths, and interference prevention. Carefully selected, top-quality circuit components elevate sonic quality even further.

Yamaha's extensive support for iDevices continues in the A1040, which features AirPlay, as well as a front USB socket that is iOS-compliant. A controller app, available for both iOS and Android platforms provide a colourful and intuitive alternative to the full-featured, learning remote control.

A direct wi-fi connection can also be

established between the Yamaha and compatible devices where

conventional 802.11 Wi-Fi is not available, allowing direct streaming of content from the device to the Yamaha.

Also of note is the Yamaha's ability to accept material streamed from DLNA-compliant devices on the same network, including compatible Network-Attached Storage (NAS) devices. It supports an extensive list of audio codecs for this purpose, including FLAC and WAV files at up to 24-bit/192 kHz, ALAC at up to 24-bit/96 kHz, and MP3, MPEG-AAC and WMA at up to 48 kHz at 320 kbs compression.

Set-up is impressively simple using Yamaha's YPAO RSC microphone-based system, which vitally here includes multi-position measuring. This allows for several measurements at different listening positions to be conducted and stored. The results are aggregated to provide more accurate overall settings.

The result was a sound that was as bold as it was immersive, and really delivered soundtracks such as *Man Of Steel*, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* and *Edge Of Tomorrow* with visceral realism. Overall authority and control was excellent, with surround sound effects clearly and believably rendered.

The Yamaha's extensive DSP modes, many based on actual, measured sound fields, are among the best yet, but remain less convincing than the latest Dolby TrueHD or DTS-HD Master Audio soundtracks – although, they can bring extra life to stereo or older matrixed soundtracks.

The Yamaha sounded crisp and composed on stereo material, with good staging and clean, clear imaging. The powerful bass provided a solid tonal foundation, leading into a lean, agile midrange and lucid, revealing trebles.

The Aventure RX-A1040 ticks all the important AV receiver boxes, while offering extensive functionality, connectivity and convenience. With more than enough muscle, incisive performance at a price



point reflecting strong value, this could be the pick of the Aventure bunch.

Deon Schoeman

VITAL STATS

Channels	7.2
Power output	110 watts RMS per channel (20 Hz – 20 kHz, 8 ohms)
Surround sound formats	Dolby TrueHD and below, DTS-HD Master Audio and below
DSP chips ...	Audio DAC ESS Sabre ES9006
Frequency response ...	10 Hz – 100 kHz (+0, -3 dB)
Signal-to-noise ratio	>100 dB
HDMI inputs/outputs	8/2
AV inputs/outputs	4/2
Audio inputs/outputs	4x stereo, 1x multichannel / 1x stereo, 1x multichannel pre-out
Digital inputs/outputs	3x coaxial, 4x optical / 1x optical
Connectivity	Ethernet, Wi-Fi, AirPlay, USB, MHL
Dimensions (WxHxD)	435 x 182 x 432 mm
Weight	14,9 kg
Price	R 19 990

Verdict

The midrange RX-A1040 offers most of the Aventure performance and feature advantages – excellent user interface, intuitive set-up, loads of features, and plenty of muscle – at a value-added price.

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OUR RATING: 83 / 100

