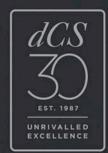
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"dCS Rossini is a winner, not only in terms of the sheer performance delivered, but in its timeless physical and electronic design along with an architecture that will be easily upgraded in the years to come'"

Jeff Dorgay, Tone Audio Magazine



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Two 6" High-Definition Cast-Basket Bass/Midrange Drivers w/ Multi-Vaned Phase Plugs

Optimized Dual-Chamber Upper Bass/Midrange Enclosure with Angled Rear and Side Walls

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Open-Cell Polyurethane Foam Damping Pads

Proprietary Mix of Long-Fiber Lamb's Wool and Dacron for Internal Damping

Three 6" x 10" Quadratic Sub-Bass Drivers w/ Massive Focussed-Field Magnet Structures

Elaborately Braced Accelerometer Optimized Non-Resonant Cabinet

Linear-Phase Balanced Crossover Network w/ Film Capacitors and Bridging Cap

Four Inertially-Balanced 10-1/4" x 9-1/2" Quadratic Planar Infrasonic Radiators

Two on Each Side of Cabinet

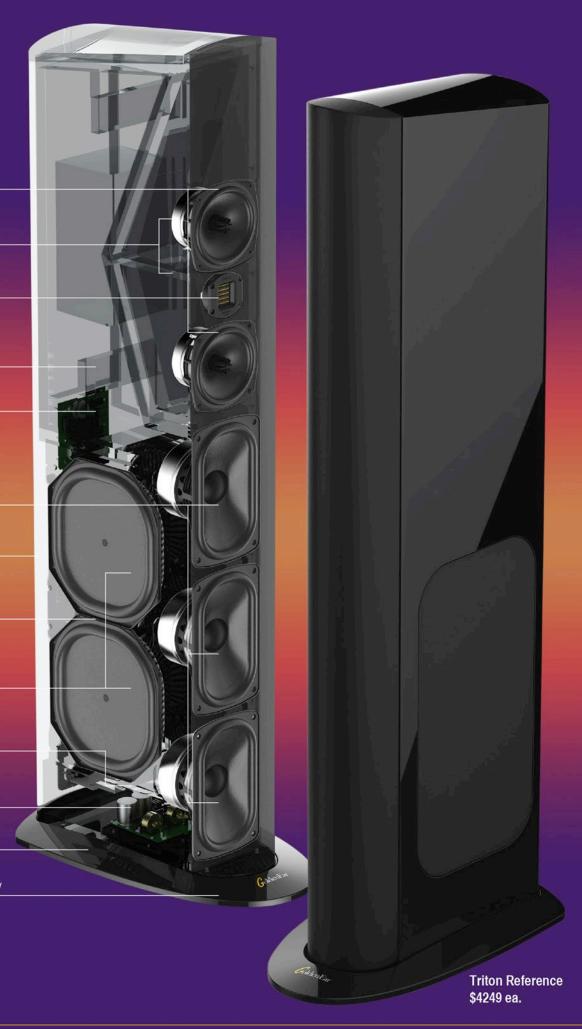
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Massive 3/32" Thick Steel Plate Built Into the Base for Exceptional Structural Rigidity





"ColdenEar's New Triton Reference Redefines Ultra High-End Performance and Value!"

"Stunning...a completely new level of excellence...exceptional musical performance and an awesome anchor for a multi-channel or theater setup!"

- Jeff Dorgay, Tone Audio

"A remarkable amount of transparency, life and soundstage detail ... fully competitive with some substantially more expensive speakers"

- Anthony Cordesman, The Absolute Sound

GoldenEar's Triton One is one of the best selling high-end loudspeakers ever, consistently thrilling listeners and reviewers alike and winning an enviable and unmatched collection of the industry's most prestigious awards, including "Loudspeaker-of-the-Year" and "Product-of-the-Year" from key publications all around the world.

Clearly, we knew that the One would be a very hard act to follow. There was a spirited discussion within our product development group about an all-out assault on the ultimate, cost-no-object, state-of-the-art, to produce a six-figure loudspeaker to do battle with the most esoteric and expensive loudspeakers on the planet. However, after much soul-searching, rational minds won out, and the decision was made to create a new GoldenEar flagship, positioned above the Triton One (of course still current and available), that would joust with the best, but still stick to our trademarked slogan, "We Make High-End Affordable." We are pleased and proud to introduce the new Triton Reference. The Reference has begun gathering its own collection of honors, winning the prestigious and coveted CES Innovations Design and Engineering Award, Digital Trends Best Home Audio Tech at CES, HD GURU Best High Fidelity Loudspeaker at CES and What HiFi Stars of CES!

"Undeniably stellar ... Yes, it does deliver the sort of performance previously delivered only by cost-no-object speakers." - Dennis Burger, Home Theater Review

The Triton Reference is an evolution of everything that we have achieved with the Triton One, but taken to a stunning new level of sonic performance and sophisticated visual design. All the components in the T Ref: including larger, more powerful, active subbass drivers with huge "Focused Field" magnet structures, upperbass/midrange drivers with "Focused Field" magnet structures, and High-Velocity Folded Ribbon tweeter with 50% more rare earth neodymium magnet material, are brand new, and have been specifically developed for use in the Reference. The powerful 1800 watt subwoofer amplifier, with level control to fine tune the bass to your room, and 56-bit DSP control unit are a significant evolution of those in the Triton One and our SuperSubs.

There are a myriad of other significant upgrades and refinements, including: new internal wiring with a specially developed twist, further development of our signature balanced crossover including

film capacitors bridged across the high-pass section on the upper-bass/midrange drivers, a unique proprietary mix of long-fiber lamb's wool and Dacron for more effective internal damping, intensive work with a high-resolution accelerometer to determine the most effective implementation of complex internal bracing, a 3/32″-thick steel plate built into the medite base to further stiffen it for increased stability, new stainless steel floor spikes and cups, all of which results in higher resolution of subtle details ... and the list goes on and on.

"The Triton Reference presents a serious challenge to speakers in the multi \$10K range"

- Robert Deutsch, Stereophile

Visually, the Reference offers a strikingly beautiful upgrade to the classic Triton styling, with a gorgeous hand-rubbed piano gloss-black lacquer finished one-piece monocoque cabinet. Sleek, statuesque and refined, the Reference is simply an elegantly gorgeous statement piece that will excite listeners with its dynamic visual presence, as well as its extraordinary sonic performance.

Sonically, the Reference has been engineered to perform with a dramatic and authoritative voice, comparable to speakers that sell for ten and more times its surprisingly affordable price. T Refs completely disappear, with superb three-dimensional imaging that will open up your room, stretching from wall to wall and beyond, and depth that makes the wall behind them seem to vanish. The astonishing bass is rock-solid, with low-frequency performance that is tight, quick, highly impactful and musical with extension flat to 20Hz and below. Another Golden Ear signature is a silky smooth high end that extends to 35 kHz with a lifelike sheen but no trace of fatiguing hardness, sibilance or stridency so common with lesser tweeters. Tremendous time and energy has been put into the voicing of the speaker and the seamless blending of the drivers, for unmatched musicality with all types of music, and home theater perfection. Rarely do speakers excel at both, but with their world-class neutrality, the Reference absolutely does. A special bonus is the Reference's extremely high 93.25 dB sensitivity, which gives them tremendous dynamic range and allows use with almost any high-quality amplifier. You must experience T Ref for yourself!



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Audio Audio

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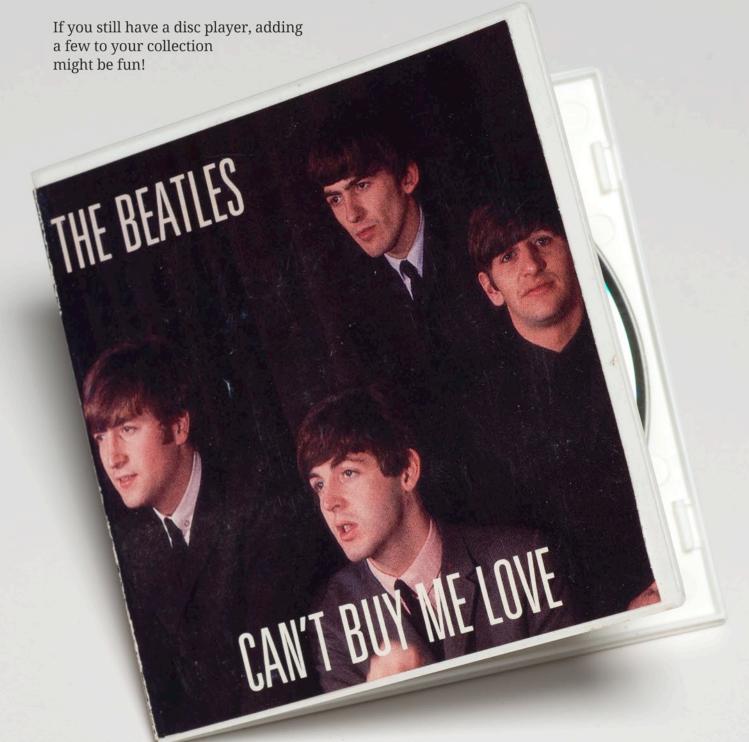
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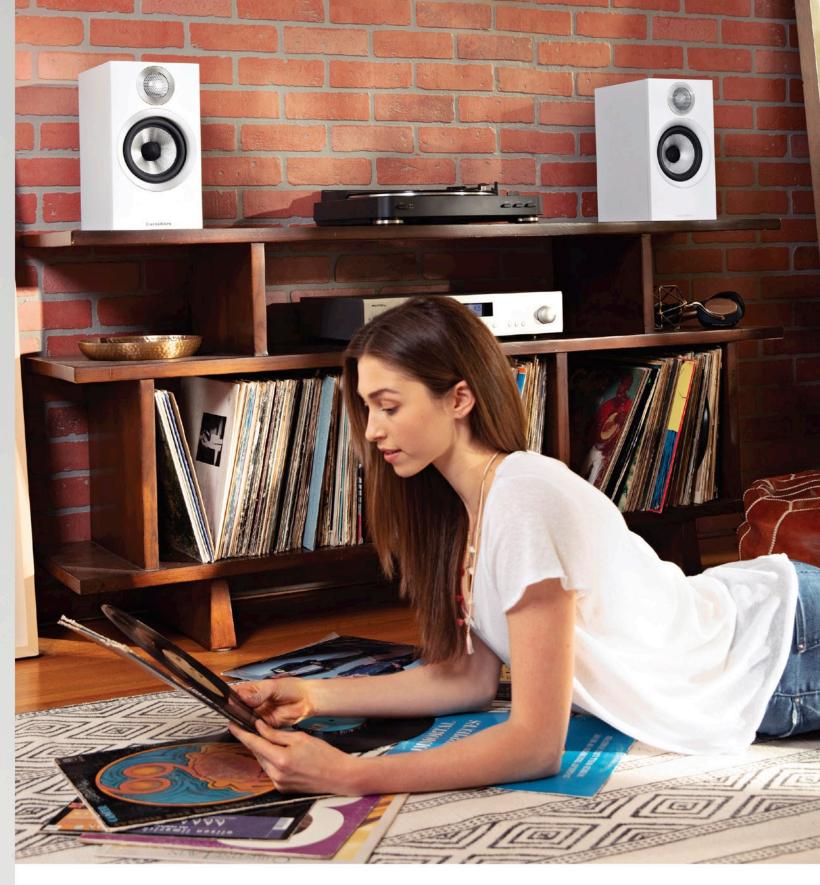
In House

The soundtrack of assembling the issue...

The Beatles - Love Me Do

We've been kicking the issue off with box sets for the better part of the year now, and then this showed up doing some fall cleaning. Looking for something else, of course! Who remembers these great little CD singles? Like everything else that's collectible, these are starting to fetch relatively high prices out on the various auction sites.





STORIED SOUND FOR EVERY MOMENT.

THE NEW 600 SERIES

Bowers & Wilkins

what's Inside:

Audio Audio

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Cover:

Audio's newest direction: the integrated amplifier. Everything you need in one box! We've rounded up quite a few, at a wide range of price and functionality

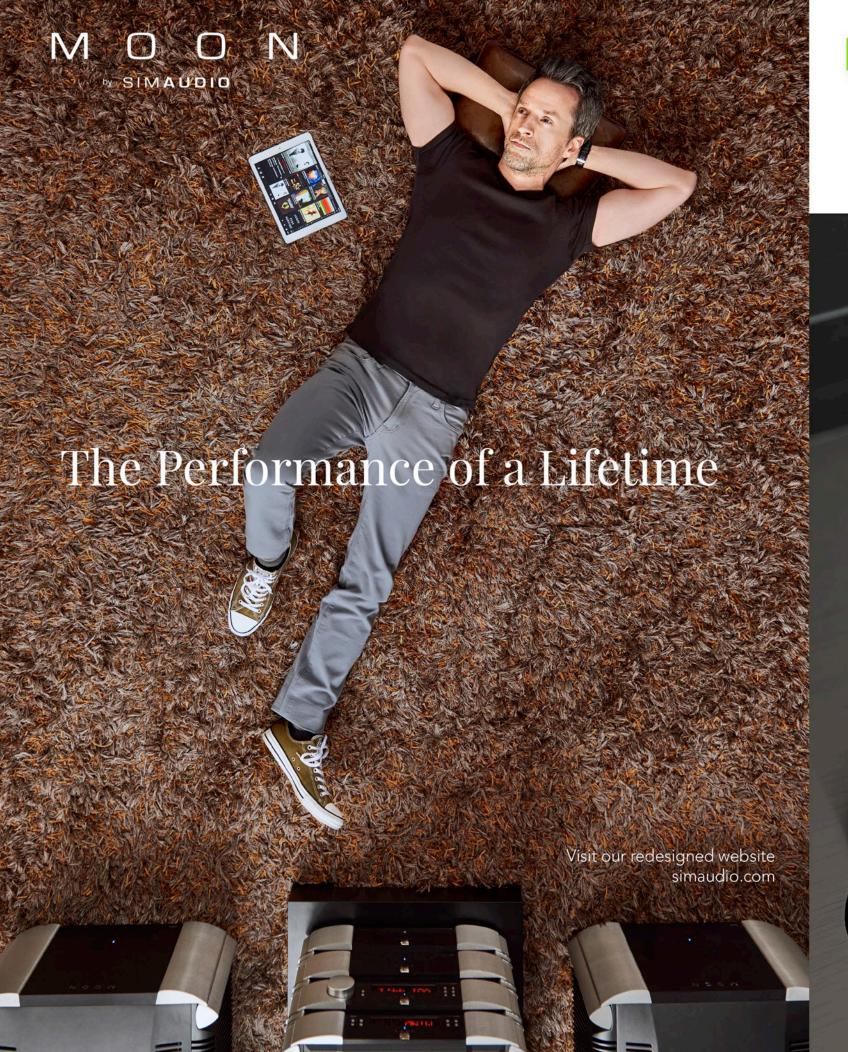
But you can't beat glowing tubes for a cover shot! We feature the Octave V110SE on page 110



VPI Founder Harry Weisfeld seeks cost-no-object performance for his own listening.

"I use the **KISEKI Purple Heart N.S.** in my personal system on my Avenger Reference and have no urge to change cartridges. It sweeps you out of your seat and into the concert hall with power, grace, and air. I cannot recommend a cartridge higher than to say I use it when I just want to enjoy music."





Audio Audio





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THE PERSONA SYSTEM DID THAT
MYSTIFYINGLY MAGICAL ACT—ONE
THAT ALL GREATEST SPEAKERS
ASPIRE TO—OF DISAPPEARING
COMPLETELY FROM PERCEPTION
AND LEAVING BEHIND ONLY THE
MUSIC OR MOVIE SOUNDTRACK."

Darryl Wilkinson, Sound & Vision

















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no.91

Publishers Letter

When I began the journey with TONE, I drove some of our advertisers crazy, because I didn't have a set "editorial calendar." As someone who always prefers to be a bit more random than starting in January, with the entire year mapped out, I like to mix it up, both for my amusement and for yours. We always do our awards between October and November, but otherwise, who knows what we'll do? Seriously, with things changing as often as they do in the wacky world of high end audio, we just try to keep a good mix coming your way.

Somehow the last few issues have had somewhat of a theme, but that's only been because I've had gear arriving in a certain order. It's always a Tetris game here! With so much fun analog stuff, we ended up doing two analog issues in a row. Who does that?

This issue, we've got all integrated amplifiers for you. Now that the major manufacturers have brought their expertise to bear on this solution, there are many integrated amplifiers that are easily the equal of separate components, if not better in some situations. The single box approach means the impedance match between pre and power amplifier will be optimized, and you won't have to agonize about getting the proper interconnect cables. I know, this is kind of bad news for our buddies that make cable, but you'll still need a great mains cable and a great pair of speaker cables!

In the last few years, we've been seeing more people desiring a great hifi system, yet not needing or wanting a big rack of gear to go with. Sometimes it's a space thing, other times, it's the simplicity aspect of just having one box. We've put together a group of amplifiers that we hope you will enjoy, and we've included some links to past reviews of integrated amplifiers we really love.

On another note, a number of our past contributors have returned, and that's always great. Ben Fong-Torres returns with a great article on his recent meeting with Steve Martin (a fantastic banjo player) and Monique Meadows is back with the Wino column to compliment Roy Hall's Whisky column. In the months to come, Jacob Heilbrunn will be returning with his always insightful peek into the world of the extreme high end.

We've got more surprises in store, but we can't discuss them just yet.

Thanks again for reading,



Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

The Pretenders -Bad Boys Get Spanked

Susanna Hofts (with Matthew Sweet) - Go All The Way

Me'shell Ndegeocello -If That's Your Boyfriend (he wasn't last night)

Wendy O Williams (with the Plasmatics) -Tight Black Pants

Annie Lennox (with Eurythmics) Would I Lie to You?

Betty Davis -Game is my Middle Name

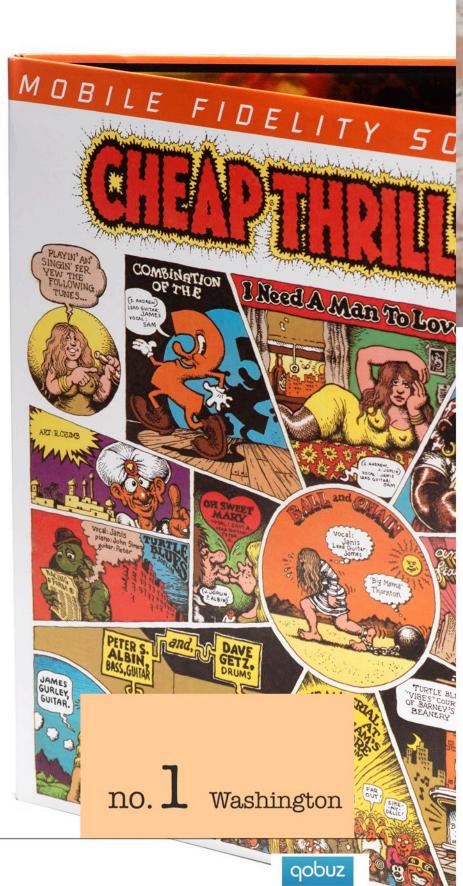
Janis Joplin -I Need a Man to Love

Anja Garbarek -Big Mouth

Ani DiFranco -Willing to Fight

Here's a few of my favorite "non-audiophile" female vocal tracks.

If you're looking for Patricia Barber and Diana Krall, look elsewhere! I can't help you.





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www.McIntoshLabs.com Handcrafted in America since 1949 By Jerold O'Brien

The Pioneer A20 - A real bargain!

While this column focuses on gear under \$1,000, and sometimes way less, finding an integrated amp at this price in today's market is challenging. Especially when we've already covered the lovely Rega Brio (\$899) and the equally amazing, yet very different PS Audio Sprout 100. (\$599)

Nosing around Best Buy, looking for more Hue lighting products, I stumbled into the Magnolia section and asked the salesperson what could be had for under our mandatory "995" price tag? "Dude, I've got something way under a grand that's killer." With enough bonus points on my Best Buy account to walk out the door with one under my arm without spending a penny. How could I resist that? The rest of you will have to shell out \$299. Still, not bad. Considering a couple of the capacitors inside my Audio Research REF Phono 2SE cost more than \$299, I was very anxious to unbox this baby.

Weighing in at almost 16 pounds, the A20 feels pretty substantial when you take it out of the box, and fit/finish is quite good. With a built-in MM phono stage and headphone amplifier, the A20 is pretty versatile too. Pioneer's spec sheet claims 30 watts per channel into 8 ohms and 50 into 4, with something called a "trans-stabilizer" that is never mentioned anywhere in the manual.

Having just picked up a vintage Pioneer tuner for a friend, and being the ultimate audio hoarder that I am, (The phrase "single for a reason" comes to mind here) I still have a mint Pioneer PL-12D belt drive turntable, so why not make it a nearly all Pioneer party? Dusting off the vintage JBL L-100s makes it a full-on time warp. Am I back in my dorm room? Laugh while you can, but restored PL-12Ds are heading upwards of \$499 these days.





995

Great sound for less than a G!

By Jerold O'Brien

There are two sets of speaker outputs on the back of the A20, but I suspect you would blow the damn thing up connecting a pair of speakers somewhat on the low side of 8 ohms. A small remote is included, and the A20 includes a pair of tone controls and a loudness button, which works just as it did in the 80s – it adds a healthy amount of mid bass and treble boost, which scarily isn't all that bad at soft volume levels.

Keeping the A20 within its range and not pushing it too far yields pleasant results. Paired with a current spect Pro-Ject turntable and the new Paradigm Atom speakers here for review makes for an entire system under a thousand bucks that is very listenable. This would have made a great dorm system back in my day – no shame here. Checking out the headphone section, first with vintage Sennheiser phones and then with some more recent Sennheiser 650s, this part of the A20 really passes muster. Spinning some classic rock favorites for maximum stereo effect, the A20 offers great separation, dynamics and bass response.

Finally, the phono stage is way more awesome than it has a right to be. I've heard plenty of \$300 phonostages that don't sound this good. You can't have REF Phono 2SE sound for this price, but there's a level of musicality that is unmistakably good. And certainly enough resolution to hear some vinyl magic coming through.

Most mass market audio is junk these days, especially stuff at this price point. The A20 is a breath of fresh air in its category. This is the easiest Exceptional Value Award we've ever handed out.



The Pioneer A20 \$299

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- Cardas 4181US Outlets
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The Journeyman Audiophile

Sound for a bit more than a G.

Released eight years ago the 600i is the smaller of two integrated amplifiers in the MOON lineup along with its big brother the 700i. It is offered in sliver or black as well as a two-tone that is very popular. Coming in at a welterweight 125 wpc into 8 Ohms, the 600i V2 will offer up enough power (staying biased in Class-A for the first five watts) to easily drive most reference level speakers. The 600i V2 is a true Dual-Mono design meaning each channel operates independently of the other; only the chassis and power switch are shared.

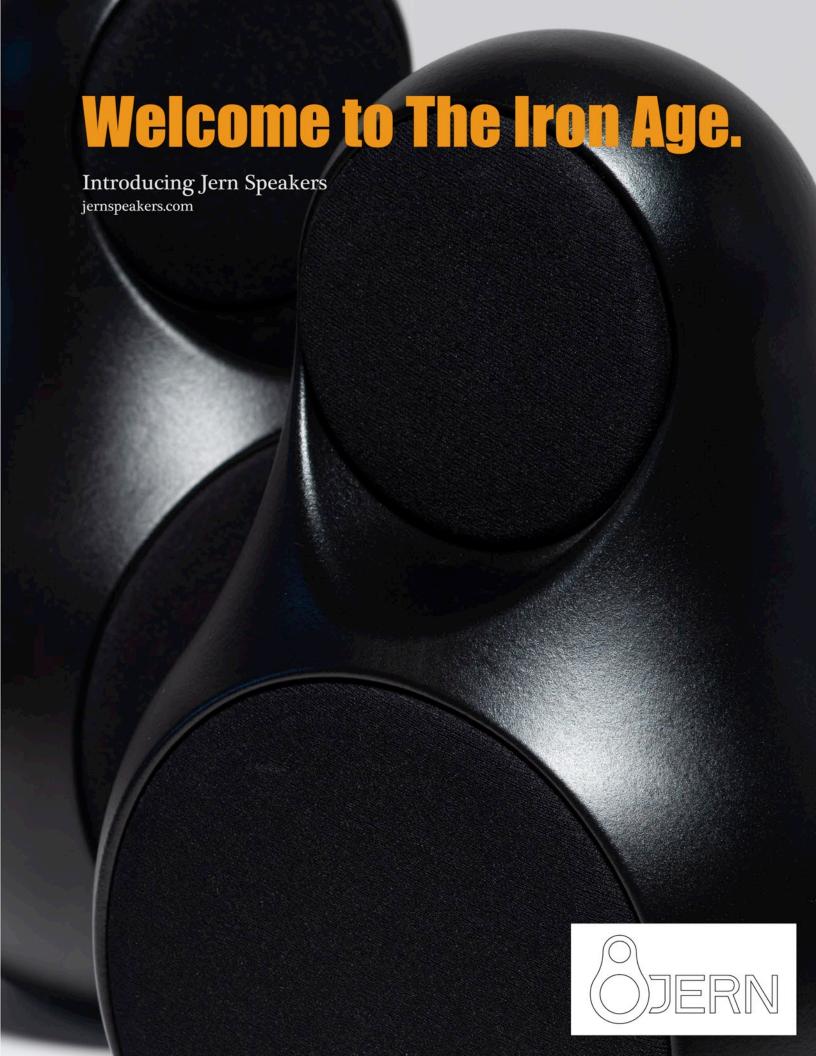
As with all top MOON gear, the volume control is their vaunted M-eVol2 530 step attenuation. I've enjoyed this on my MOON 430HAD headphone amplifier for years, and it has the most tactile feel of any volume control I've used. Many of the MOON circuit innovations are equally well regarded in our industry, as is their 10-year warranty. The chassis is the same as the original, and the power amplifier circuit is unchanged.

Whats new in version 2?

Two invisible yet sonically major changes have been made to the new amplifier. First, they made changes to the power supply capacitors. Now made to MOON specifications using the same values but with higher quality these new capacitors provide more body and punch with improved articulation in the bass. Second, the preamp section has new high speed semi-conductors from National Semi that lowers the noise floor and makes for a more expansive soundstage. There is an organic sensation present, but you'll never mistake this for a tube amp. The V2 is fast and clean, yet with more tonal body than the outgoing model.

All the detail you loved before is retained but with more air in the high frequencies, offering a better sense of the dimensional space of the recording studio. Finally total harmonic distortion is reduced in the V2 making for less listener fatigue.





The Journeyman Audiophile

Sound for a bit more than a G.

The 600i V2 offers the same input flexibility as before with four pair of RCA inputs, one XLR and an RCA output pair, switchable from fixed to variable output, for home theater or preamp use. In addition, all inputs can be trimmed with a 10dB gain swing for volume matching your sources. 12v trigger inputs and SimLink 3.5mm jacks are also available as is an RS-232 port for home integration and firmware updates. This should satisfy nearly all users – I still had an input to spare!

Efficient setup

The 600i V2 replaces a pair of big monoblocks and a preamplifier in my reference system. An integrated always means fewer cables and an attractive smaller central unit at the heart of the system. All of my digital sources connected via RCA and my VPI Prime Signature turntable with Moon 610LP Phono-preamp connected via the balanced XLR input, all cabled with AQ MacKenzie.

Let's listen

I use a MOON phonostage and the expected synergy proves excellent. Vanessa Fernandez's album, *Use Me* (Groove Note GRV 1050-1) is a pristine 45 rpm

two-disc jewel for female vocal enthusiasts. Her tune "I Love You More (Than You'll Ever Know)" is a slow blues number with her voice framed by harmonica, guitar, bass and drums. The bass digs deep and clear. The 600i V2 grips the woofers with a precise and crisp control. The snap of the snare drum rasps with great accuracy. Guitar notes have live like decay and the plaintive wail of the harmonica adds a feeling of lost desperation for a love gone away. Beautiful and highly musical.

Moving on to streaming Tidal via the Aurender A10, I queued up Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" from the *Divide* album. I was instantly struck by the 600 V2s ability to convey this clear tenor's voice, subtle emotion and timbre. It takes a special piece of gear to involve a listener enough to truly feel the joy in this song, and the MOON amplifier sails through this test.

A 24/192 file of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" is equally moving, putting me in the back seat of Wayne and Garth's Pacer. From the fortissimo power to the pianissimo softness I felt drawn into the song, and the 600i V2 effortlessly delivers enough power and dynamic range to play this song at the volume it deserves.



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10 products of the year and most wanted components

in just 2 years by preserving relative phase relationships in a signal



"If you're looking for a major jump in your system's performance, I'd suggest buying a pair of these instead of considering a hardware upgrade. Before you write this advice off to cable delusion, expectation bias, or the recent Mercury retrograde phase, please take note: I have never said this in TONE's 11-year history"

Jeff Dorgay, Tone Audio

"Well, I have just stumbled upon a speaker cable that I'm very tempted to put in a class of its own"

Mono & Stereo





"Tellurium Q have surpassed themselves here. It is often said that all cables colour the sound of a system to some extent, but the Silver Diamonds do it to a lesser extent than any other product I've heard so far."

John Myles, HiFi World

The effect of phase distortion can be likened to smearing a beautiful picture or looking at it through frosted glass. All signal cables do this to some degree and the better you tackle the engineering challenges to combat phase distortion the more natural the sound you get.



















Old School

Respecting HiFi's Past...

by Jeff Dorgay

The PrimaLuna ProLogue One

Who knew 15 years ago that this cool little tube amplifier would change my life? My first assignment for The Absolute Sound was supposed to be an NAD integrated amplifier, but the very day I got my copy of Stereophile in the mail, with the PrimaLuna on the cover, I thought "that would be a great amp to review." Less than an hour later, Robert Harley was on the phone - "The NAD fell through, they didn't want the new guy reviewing it. How about this new integrated from PrimaLuna?"

As I already knew Upscale Audio's Kevin Deal from the world of cars, this felt like a slam dunk. The review was a success, it cemented the Prima Luna brand and my audio reviewing career as well. When I started TONE, people would say, "you wrote that PrimaLuna review, didn't you?"

Yeah, I did.



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With the OCTAVE **HP 700** tube preamplifier there is no sacrifice of personal customization to enjoy perfect sound quality. Distinguished by its powerful and airy sound, the **HP 700** also boasts the incredible flexibility of eight optional high-end input modules, allowing perfect customization to any system without a hint of audible compromise.



Crafted from the highest grade components



Audiophile tone control option



Perfectly optimized optional input modules



Old School

Respecting HiFi's Past...

by Jeff Dorgay

Of course, I bought the review sample. This little amp was so cool, how could I not? If you're a fan of the vintage Dynaco and Marantz EL34 amps, the original ProLogue One felt like a restomodded classic amplifier. Not as slow, soft or syrupy as the vintage amps, but not as clinical as a current ARC, BAT, or VAC amp.

And, the price was killer. \$1,095 in 2005 was insanely inexpensive for a tube integrated amp, wired point to point, with this level of fit and finish.

Another point of contention in 2005 was the "built in China" moniker, but PL Principal, and lifetime high end audio pro, Herman Van Den Dungen makes sure everything is produced to perfection. The amplifier you see here has been in use since I wrote that review in TAS, and it's only had a single tube change.

When I got the PL One back from my niece last year, I couldn't have been more excited to be

reunited with this old friend. The stock tubes were replaced with new PrimaLuna 12AU7s, a pair of EAT 12AX7 equivalents, and a set of mint NOS Siemens EL34s. Other than a slightly noisy volume control (which a little bit of contact cleaner took care of immediately) the PL One was back and rocking with my 1976 era Klipsch LaScalas. The sound was glorious, and with the coolio tubes, better than the day I unboxed it.

15 years later, PrimaLuna products have only gotten better, and they have a much wider range of products to choose from.

The ProLogue One no longer gets daily use, but it has an exalted position here, as the first component I reviewed professionally. Today, I use their new DiaLogue HP integrated, which produces nearly 100 watts per channel with KT150 tubes.

I'm sure you'll see that one here in 15 years.





Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

Fleetwood Mac -Never Going Back Again

Van Morrison - Almost Independence Day

Damian Marley - Welcome to Jamrock

Grateful Dead - I know You Rider (Live Fillmore East NY 5/15/70 early show)

Lyle Lovett - North Dakota

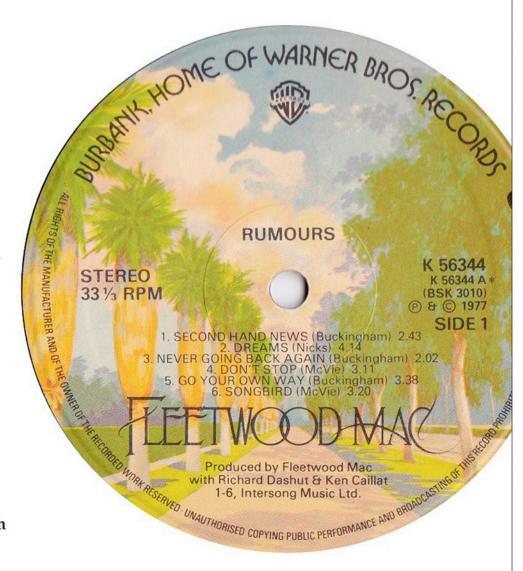
Collie Buddz - Come Around

Portishead - Glory Box

Big Data - Dangerous

Cold War Kids - Hang Me Up To Dry

Spoon - I Turn My Camera On



Cardas Audio's Brian Von Bork is the guy you usually get on the phone when you call the factory with a tech support question or want a cable suggestion for your system.

Part of this process is listening to a lot of music on as many components as possible. So here are a few of his picks:

qobuz





THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: THIN FILM ACCURACY, DEEP BASS THRILLS.

Cone speakers can't reproduce mid-range and high frequency audio with the lifelike detail and three dimensional effect of an electrostatic loudspeaker. Nothing delivers bass like woofers in a box.

MartinLogan combines these elements in the most advanced electrostatic hybrid loudspeaker ever, Renaissance ESL 15A, flagship of the Masterpiece collection.

With a unique suite of innovative tech and proprietary design elements, these loudspeakers deliver detailed imaging and dynamic soundstage, even in the most challenging listening spaces.

No other loudspeaker features the controlled dispersion radiation pattern of a curvilinear electrostatic transducer combined with our reflection-defeating PoweredForce Forward woofer alignment. The result is breathtakingly accurate and seamlessly integrated full-range performance. Onboard Anthem Room Correction (ARC®) technology instantly optimizes response for the best sound in any room.

Renaissance ESL 15A is a revolutionary melding of form and function. This is exactly what we mean by *Truth in Sound*.

The reviews are in. This is our Masterpiece

martinlogan.com/truth

"Yes, I've drunk the Kool-Aid for years. But even though I'm pre-primed to like electrostatic-panel speakers, I'd never found a one-stop solution I could live with. Now that a MartinLogan active subwoofer endowed with ARC-2 has been successfully mated to an XStat panel, anyone serious about big, full, accurate sound reproduction can start here. Unconditionally recommended."

Renaissance ESL 15A Jon Iverson, Stereophile

"...the best bass response I've ever heard in my room in the areas of overall smoothness of response and of clarity, definition, and pitch differentiation."

Impression ESL 11A
Paul Seydor, The Absolute Sound

"It's a powerful, dynamic, musical fun maker with the usual MartinLogan characteristics of good imagery and great detail... and terrific integration between cones and panel. Factor in the benefit of subtle DSP room compensation and this electrostatic hybrid design comes extremely highly recommended!"

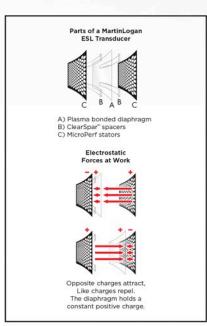
Impression ESL 11A Alan Sircom, Hi-Fi+

"MartinLogan has bit a home run... This speaker improves upon the traditional MartinLogan strong points of transparency and detail and adds a much improved bass section to create a well-rounded, great-sounding speaker."

Expression ESL 13A Brian Kahn, HomeTheaterReview.com

"...a world-class speaker. It is revealing, accurate and has the huge soundstage one expects of a dipole radiator."

Impression ESL 11A Glenn Young, Secrets of Home Theater & High Fidelity







by MARTINLOGAN



TONE Playlists are sponsored by:





T H E F I N E A R T S In celebration of 40 years in the pursuit of high-performance in audio, conrad-johnson is pleased to present our new limited production ART150 (stereo 150 Watts/channel) and ART300 (mono 300 Watts) amplifiers, each a virtual window on the

emotional experience of live music

right in your home.









Pass Labs INT-60

The Good:

Top range sound Never needs tubes Balanced and inputs Amp and Pre sections can be used seperately

Not so much:

A Phonostage and extra balanced input would be nice

The Verdict:

Best bang for the buck in the Pass range

In House

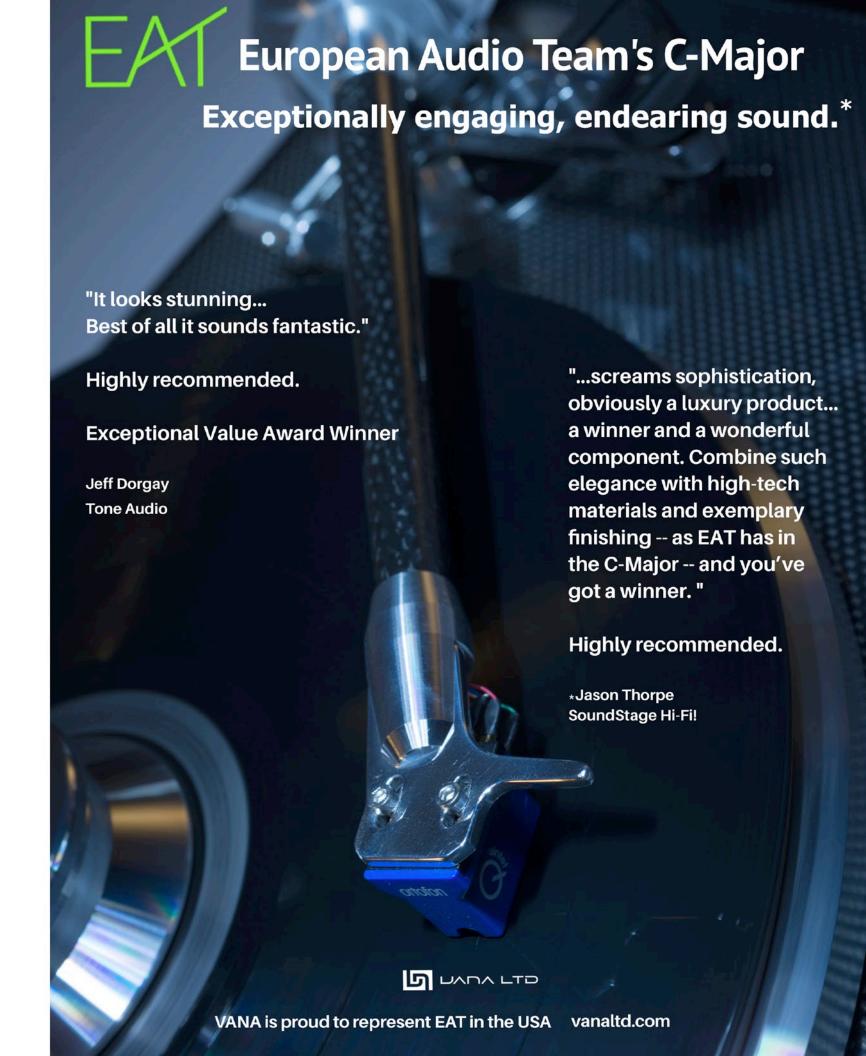
The soundtrack of assembling the issue...

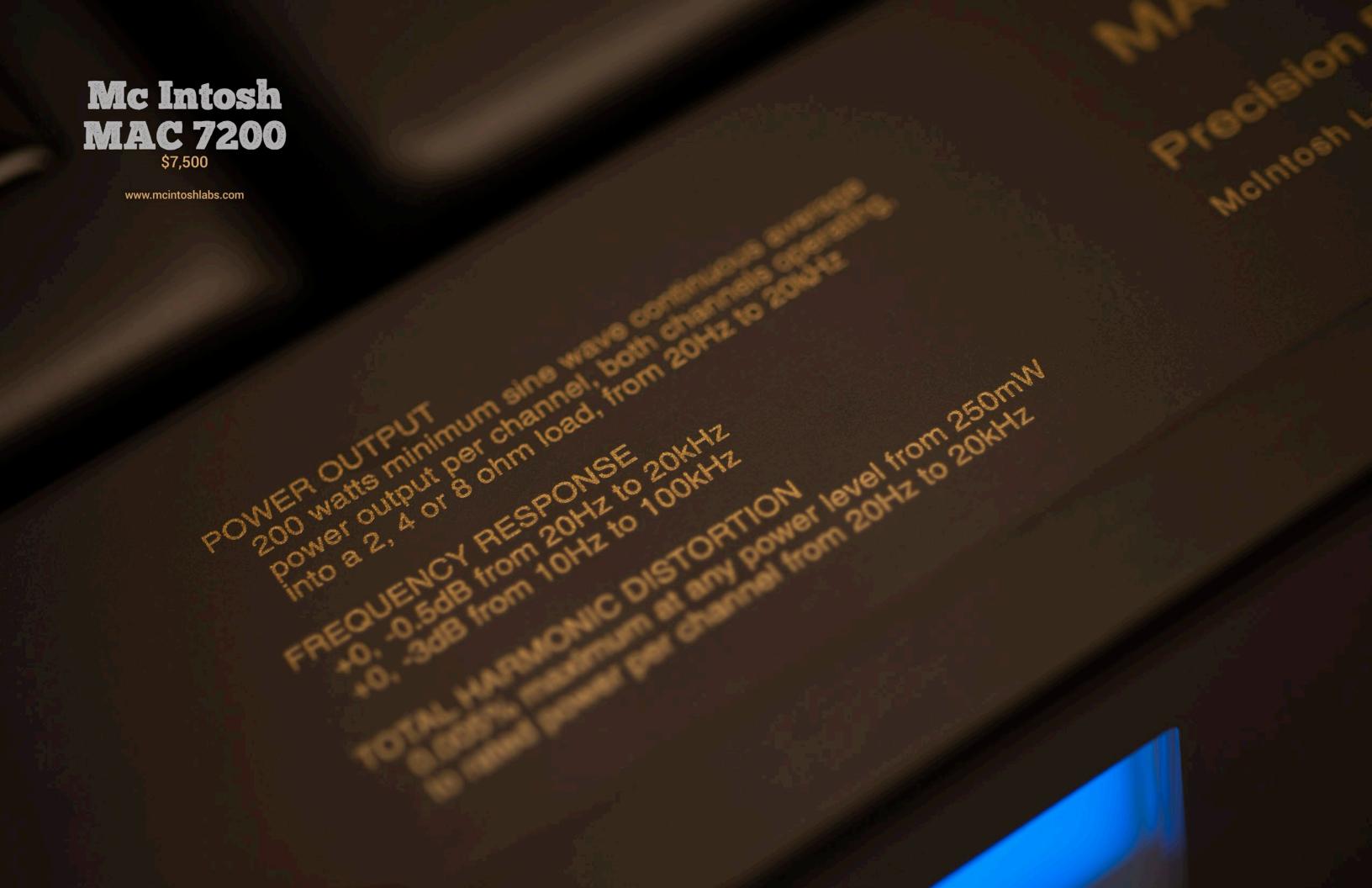
The Steven Wilson Yes Remixes

Most will probably pass over this box, but for prog completists, it's a must have. Though sourced from a 24/96 digital master, whether this really *needs* to be in a box on vinyl, other than for the new Roger Dean artwork is questionable. (you can stream it on TIDAL to see if you appreciate the remix first as a stopgap measure)

Yet, it's still fun to track through a handful of classic Yes on record...









Meet the classic 70s reciver. Re-invented. Mac Style.



The specifications printed on top of the McIntosh MAC 7200 only tell part of the story. For over 60 years you can count on a McIntosh product to exceed its printed specs. In the 60s and 70s, the company used to send factory trained technicians all around the world with test equipment, holding measurement seminars to prove their technical prowess.

Audiophiles anticipated the McIntosh amplifier clinics with great fervor, and these went a long way to build the brand loyalty that this American manufacturer enjoys today.

Popular as their amplifiers are, many McIntosh fans lovingly remember a string of famous recievers, all with the MAC prefix. Some featured vacuum tubes, with others offering solid-state construction.

But all Mac recievers, like their preamplifiers featured unmatched control flexibility, yet they did not have the big, blue meters that the brand is famous for.

McIntosh tradition meets the 21st century with the arrival of the MAC7200. And the meters are here, in all their glory.

Like all contemporary McIntosh components, the MAC 7200s bright blue meters and backlit glass front panel are now illuminated by LEDs, that will keep that famous look intact for decades.

Obsessed McIntosh fans can even have their tech adjust the color and output to any other component, so that uniformity is insured.



Inspecting the MAC 7200 more closely reveals inputs for everyhing you can imagine. The MM/MC phono section offers variable gain, loading, and capacitance adjustments, making it an excellent partner for whatever turntable/cartridge combination you may have, or are considering.

With five RCA and one XLR line level inputs, you should be able to connect all of your other components at your disposal with ease. Should the need arise, the pre and power amplifier sections can be used seperately as part of a multi channel or multi amplifier system.

The DA1 Digital Audio Module features a full function DAC, and custom installers will appreciate every port possible available, should you want to hide the MAC 7200 in an equipment closet somewhere.

But why would you?

Setting the record straight since 1978. 40 years of American craftsmanship from our family to yours!







MEDITERRANEO

THE ITALIAN TURNTABLE

Our journey started 25 years ago by designing our very first turntable driven by our love for analogue music and a real passion for vinyl.

Such passion defines all our creations and particularly turntables, stimulating us to design with great care and attention every single detail in order to realise the most fascinating sources of music.

Mediterraneo is the pinnacle of Gold Note: a creation that redefines the traditional design of the turntable through innovative shapes, technical solutions and quality materials in order to merge tradition and technology and achieve the best musical experience.

Mediterraneo combines the greatest attention to technical perfection with pure beauty.

Manufactured by our local craftsmen, the Mediterraneo is fully hand-made: designed with a 60mm curved plinth made of aged Italian Walnut chosen for its exceptional elasticity, strength and high-density, then coupled with a 20mm board made of polished acrylic and finally reinforced with a 3mm stainless steel board for extra rigidity.

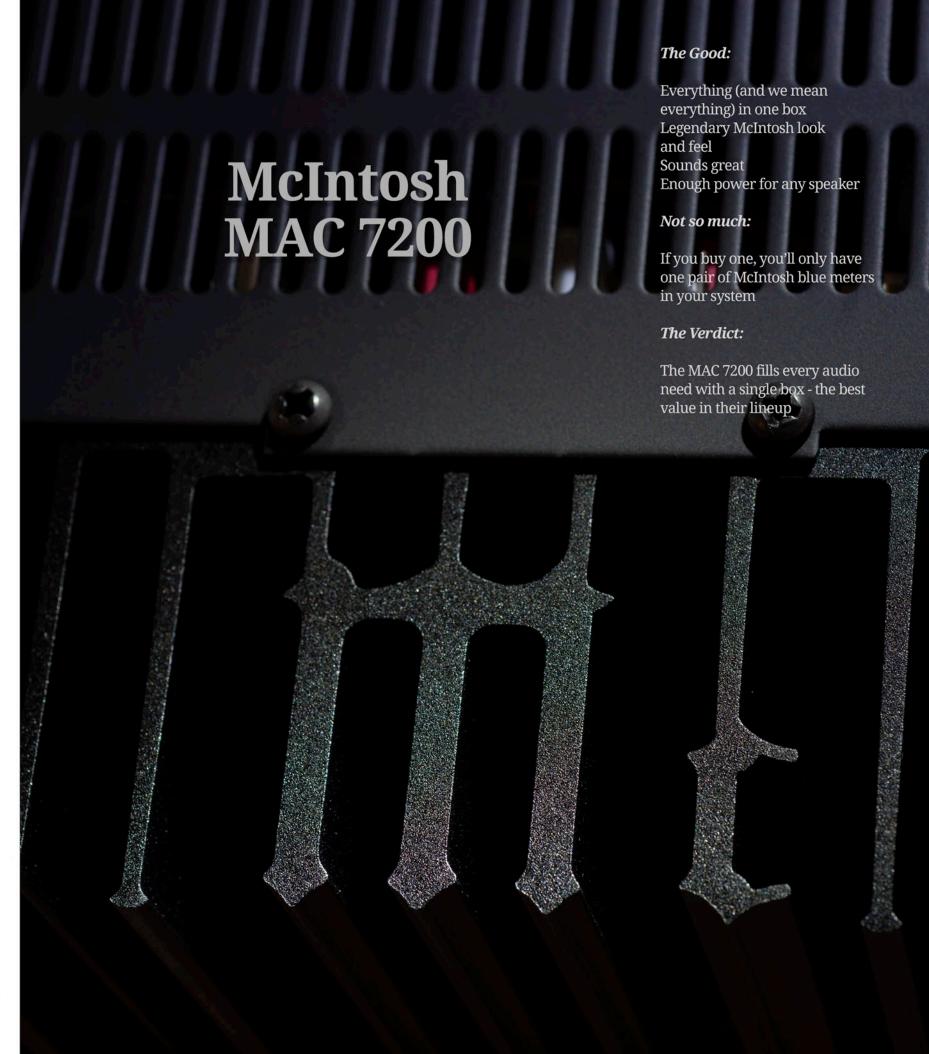
Every detail of Mediterraneo enhances its musicality: a refined technical innovation achieved through elegant and smooth lines.







www.goldnote.it









You don't realize just how stout the IS-1000 is until you pick it up.

Not only is it fairly heavy, tipping the scale at 40 pounds, if you look closely, you'll notice how beautifully the casework is assembled - there are no exposed screws.

This is a level of detail that you'd expect on a 50-thousand dollar component, but this level of finshwork is unheard of with a 5-thousand dollar amplifier.

The IS-1000 is the perfect combination of everything you need with nothing you don't.

The built-in DAC and streamer handles every file format imaginable, the MM/MC phono section is straight from their award winning PH-10, and the robust 125 watt/channel class AB amplifier takes on all comers in the speaker arena.

Best of all, sleek, understated Italian design makes the IS-1000 at home in any environment.







The Good:

Does everything
Streams everything
Multiple digital and analog inputs
Plenty of power
MM/MC phono too
Easy to use one box design
Very user friendly
Comes in black, silver and gold

Not so much:

They don't offer it in red

The Verdict:

Just buy one, dammit

Welcome to MINE:

We're not just crazy about music and hi-fi here at TONE. While we can put many labels on our ethos, claiming to be music lovers, audiophiles, or perhaps even qualityphiles, that doesn't even cover it. Having me so many of our readers from all over the globe, as we are well into our 13th year, I'd say our readers are playful and inquisitive to say the least.

You've told us you like automobiles, motorcycles, fine art, bicycles, toys, cameras... Well, you get the picture. Lumping this all under a banner labeled "Style" seems too limiting. Let's face it, we're all a little selfish when it comes to our stuff.

So, let's call it what it is - MINE! And we'll be sharing more of our favorite stuff as we go.

The Knoll Bertoia Chair

\$1,299 www.knoll.com

Originally designed as an outdoor chair, Knoll's Bertoia chair is equally at home indoors. Available in multiple colors for the wire framework and the cushions, Knoll also offers a few variations on the theme, with barstool sized chairs as well.

A no brainer for those in a mid-century modern, the 50s design of the Bertoia chair has stood the test of time well, and is an excellent addition to any environment.





Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy

Control your entire audio environment with whatever's handy.



It all makes sense when you hear **Linn DSM**.

Find out more at www.linn.co.uk





The Worlds Best Bucket? The YETI Loadout

\$39.95 www.yeti.com

Last issue, we were telling you about expensive socks, this time it's a \$40 bucket. You read right.

What could possibly make a bucket worth that much? What could make a phono cartridge worth \$12,000? Catch our drift?

All kidding aside, our boating friends swear by the construction and durability of YETI coolers, saying they are nearly indestructible.

The YETI Loadout bucket is the same. The thick plastic and soft curves make it just as much at home on your boat, as in your garage, or anywhere for that matter.

Those wanting to use it for car detailing or as a general carry all will appreciate the Utility Gear Belt, as well as the other accessories available for the Loadout bucket.

However, as YETI is quick to point out, this is not a cooler. (Though it almost seems like it would be up to that task too.)

Finally, it comes in four different colors: white, desert tan, charcoal, and the seafoam one you see here. This is a lovely option for those with multiple buckets, needing to segregate tasks.

rel.net

MINE: it should be yours

Harley-Davidson's Live Wire

Price: TBD

www.harleydavidson.com

We're sure the Harley purists are freaking out over this one, but it's an idea that makes good sense. You might not want to trade in your ICE bike for one of these, but they've certainly done a great job of integrating future tech with classic Harley style.

As an attempt to "attract a new cross section of riders," it will be interesting to see how this affects sales and exactly what kind of customer buys one.

Expect some Marvel movie placements...







AUDOLICI From Portugal



A25M Integrated Amplifier





I50 "Swing" Integrated Amplifier

AVP-01 PreAmplifier





harold@soundconsultant.com 608 208 3536 USA Distribution www.soundconsultant.com

MINE: it should be yours

Keep that garage in order: The Ryobi Garage Door System

\$179 - \$299 www.homedepot.com

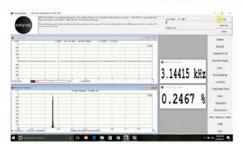
In the middle of moving amplifiers around, sometimes more mundane things need replacing. Getting out of the stone age and into the 21st century with the new Ryobi opener you see here is like trading a Walkman for a Tidal subscription.

Like anything, it's often the accessories that make the difference and the Ryobi does not dissapoint. With everything from the battery backup you see here, the Ryobi opener can accomodate a coiled extension cord, a laser guided parking system (awesome) a fan to keep cool with, a wireless bluetooth speaker that doesn't sound half bad and more.

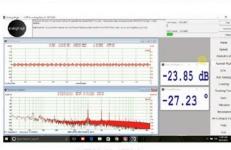
Should you opt for installing yourself, watch the YouTube videos and be prepared to call tech support, as the manual is dreadful. But the end certainly does justify the means.







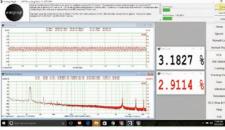




WOW & FLUTTER

SPEED

AZIMUTH

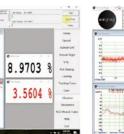






VTA

2.85 (± dB) 1.49 (± dB)



RESONANCE



LOADING & GAIN

VIBRATION

ANTI-SKATING







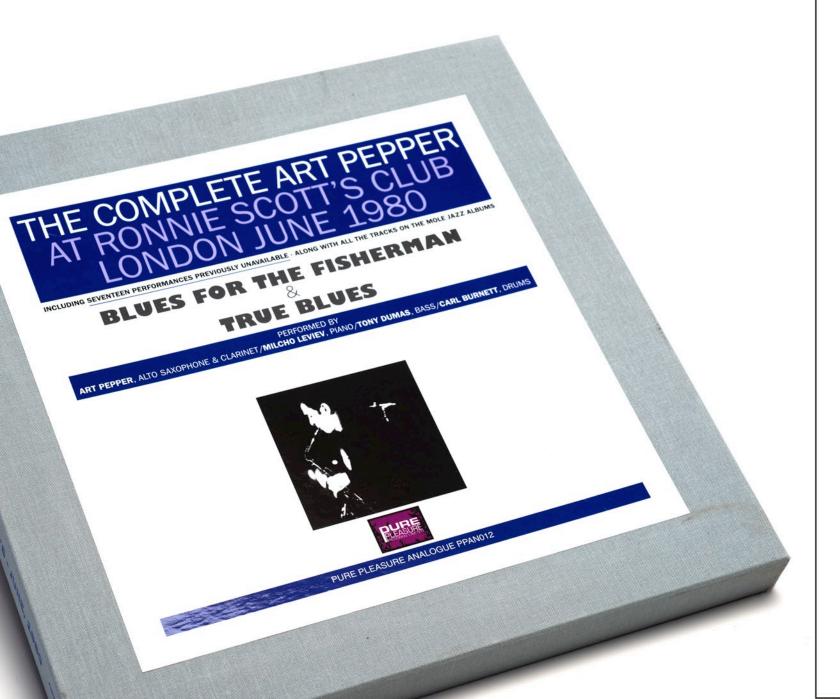


In House

The soundtrack of assembling the issue...

The Complete Art Pepper at Ronnie Scott's Club London, June 1980 - Art Pepper

Do you ever forget that one record up on the shelf that you haven't visited in a long, long time? This box set fits the bill entirely, and proves to be a joy tracking through again. Ah, the joy of vinyl.



Where Have all the Good Stereos Gone?



We know. Sorting through the jungle that is pre-owned hi-fi gear can be tough. Myriad Internet forums and online shopping sites just don't offer the expertise required to make sound decisions.

That's where Echo Audio comes in. We have more than 20 years of retail experience in selling hi-fi equipment the way it should be sold: In a brick-and-mortar environment that provides you with personalized attention.

While we will certainly ship any of our gently used classics directly to your door, we invite you to stop by our shop in beautiful downtown Portland, Oregon to browse our inventory in person. Thanks to an in-house service department, we not only service everything we sell, but every piece of used gear is thoroughly checked before being put on display. Consider our white-gloves treatment your guarantee against potential problems.

So, when you are looking for high-quality, lightly used hi-fi gear, look no further than Echo Audio. Be sure to check out our Web site for current products and new arrivals.



www.echohifi.com 888.248.echo

Monaco Series Modular

Inquire with GPA for exact pricing www.grandprixaudio.com

Derived from a racing heritage, the Grand Prix Audio Monaco rack displays the same level of craftsmanship that their turntables offer, along with machined uprights that are works of art in their own right.

Utilizing custom elastomers (determined by the weight of gear on each shelf) the Monaco racks can handle a surprising amount of weight without issue.

Finally, you can use either the standard acryclic shelves, or the upgraded, all carbon fiber Formula shelves, for additional vibration control.



The Classic SB VINTAGE DESIGN MEETS MODERN TECHNOLOGY



We have turbocharged our EISA Award-winning "the Classic" to bring you this upgraded package - The Classic SB.

It includes key new features:

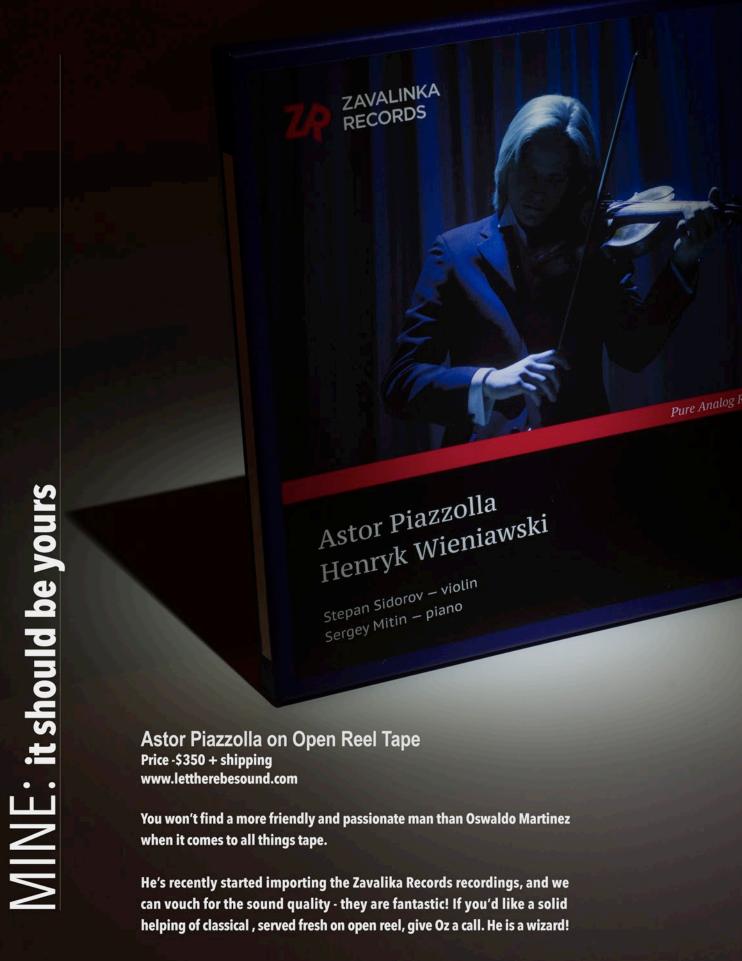
- •Electronic speedcontrol
- •Sumiko Blue Point No.2 cartridge
- •Top grade Clamp It
- ·Leather It mat

ELECTRONIC SPEEDCONTROL



SUMIKO BLUE POINT NO.2 CARTRIDGE







Rega products are elegantly simple in appearance. Deceptively so, in fact. Everything is straightforward to setup, easy to use and utterly consistent in performance.

Yet underneath that apparent simplicity lies some of the most radical thinking, advanced engineering and innovative materials development you'll find anywhere.



Based on 40 years of continuous research and unwavering commitment to UK manufacturing, everything Rega does is there for one reason alone.

Quite simply, if it doesn't sound better, it doesn't happen. (If it does sound better, but is considered 'impossible,' they'll figure out how to do it anyway. There's a very good reason the company's named Rega

Rega's view is that hifi's simply a tool for listening to your music.

So we think you'll quickly forget all about the technology. But we're 100% sure you'll remember the performance.











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Exclusive US distributors of: Acoustic Energy • Chord Cables • Kii • ProAc • Quadraspire • Rega

MINE: it should be yours

Google Chromecast Audio

\$35 www.target.com

Target? Just how far have we stooped? Sometimes you need a dCS Vivaldi to get the job done; others you need a Chromecast Audio.

If PSAudio's Sprout is high end audio's kids meal, the Chromecast is high end audio's snack treat.

Where else can you get a \$35 DAC that's a ROON endpoint? While it can be connected to your system via an optical digital cable, it's line output means you can stream your music library via ROON anywhere.

And we love that.

The holiday season is just around the corner. This is the perfect stocking stuffer.



Bellissimo!



Boulder The Foundation of Your System



Boulder Amplifiers Inc | 255 S Taylor Ave | Louisville CO 80027 | USA 303-449-8220 | sales@boulderamp.com | www.boulderamp.com



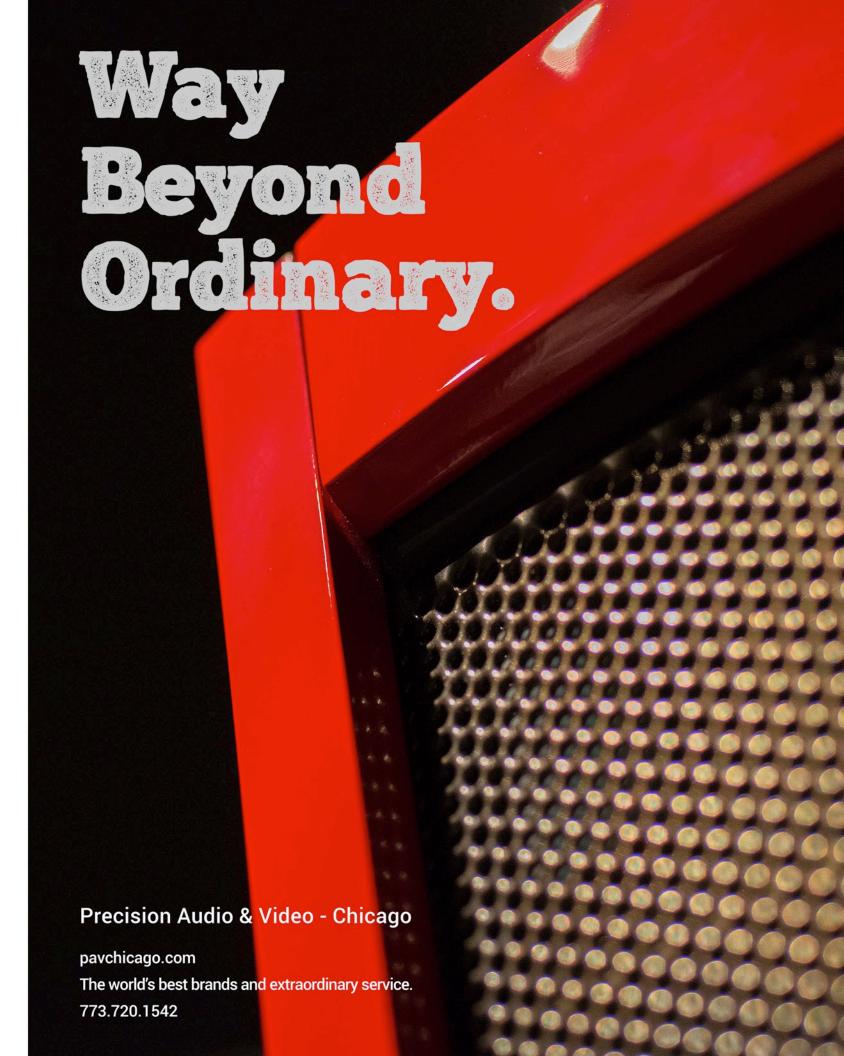
MINE: it should be yours

All You Need is John: Lennon Stamps

\$8/sheet www.usps.com

Here's to the most accessible bit of beatles history... Grab a few extra to file somewhere. There's bound to be a buyer on EBay in about 20 years!











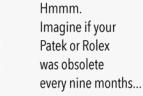
We Doin' This Again? Apple Watch 4

From \$395 www.apple.com











We make record hoarding look damn good.

KOEPPEL DESIGN





Durable, handcrafted products display and protect vinyl records







The Wino

by Monique Meadows

In France's drink culture (one could even say in French food culture, as wine and food coexist as almost one), the end of a day or the start of an evening is celebrated with the "apéro", as the "aperitif" is affectionately called. It is the drink to have before the evening's meal. While that might be a beer, a vodka martini or a chardonnay for some, more often it is a botanical-based aperitif, known for their beguiling aromatics and flavors. Historically, with roots in the Middle ages, the French aperitif was meant to awaken the appetite. It was, and is, a prelude to a meal. For the French, it is almost of ritual status.

Today, in the U.S., with the rising popularity of artful cocktail creations, and cocktail bars dedicated to inventive drinks and classics of decades back, as well as the elevated status of many a bartender to "mixologist", aperitif wines are finding their way on restaurant and bar menus in crafted cocktails, that are, quite simply, a palette sensory thrill ride.

Enter a French classic: Mattei Cap Corse Quinquina from Corsica, the French island off France's Mediterranean coast, west of Italy, near the Italian island of Sardenia. "Quinquina" refers to a tree grown in Central America that was imported to Europe, from which quinine is sourced. Cap Corse, its original recipe created in 1872 by one Louis Napoléon Mattei, is a complex blend of Corsican components beginning with its base blended wine or "mistelle" from the island's aromatic Vermentinu and Muscat Petit Grains grapes.

Added to that are flavors from a proprietary botanical mix of exotic plants and herbs, spices, and fruits, including the Cédrat, an ancestor to the lemon, brought to Corsica from Asia, lending its distinct citrus edge. Cinchona bark provides the quinine element for this Quinquina, and the sum of parts is fortified with a neutral grape spirit. The bottles sport a label bold in typography and color that recall the French liquor posters of the early 20th century .



Enjoy the Experience



54777

Pass Laboratories 13395 New Airport Rd. Ste G., Auburn, CA 95602 (530) 878-5350 - www.passlabs.com



Both the Blanc and Rouge give a cocktail crafter plenty to work with. Cap Corse Blanc Reserve has quinine's classic bitter note, with a rich dose of botanicals and a lemon and lemongrass edge. The Rouge Reserve delivers even more of that quinine bitterness and a slight caramel note. Guy Streitburger, bar manager at Chaval, an exciting brasserie focusing on French and Spanish cuisines in Portland, Maine's West End neighborhood, chooses the quinquina blanc for the "Flor Blanca" cocktail, mixing together pot distilled Gin, Cap Corse Blanc, Vermouth de Chambray and Gentian ice. Look for

In the meantime, pour yourself a bit of Corsican French culture with an apéro: Cap Corse in a glass over ice, or with tonic, and a slice of orange.

The evening is just getting started.

quinquinas on cocktail menus.

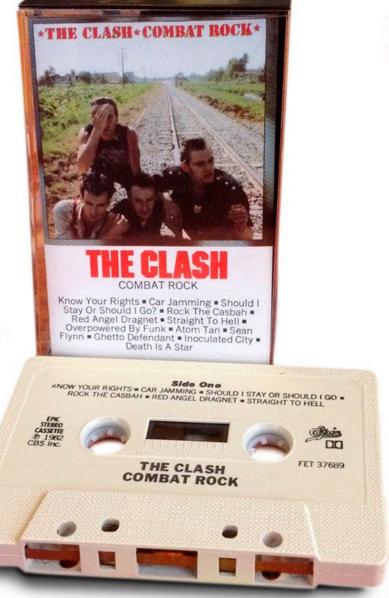
L.N. Mattei

Cap Corse Reserve Quinquina, Blanc and Rouge \$21

http://www.capcorsemattei.com

Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into



Depeche Mode -Route 66

Tears For Fears -**Mad World**

The Smiths -How Soon is Now?

Jane Sibbery -Mimi on The Beach

Madness - Our House

The Kinks - Should I stay or Should I Go?

Modern English -I Will Melt With You

The Clash - Rock The Casbah

Erasure - Oh L'Amour

Love And Rockets - Ball Of Confusion

good one! www.hificentre.com

no. 3 Canada



The NEW

Audio Physic Step plus

three-dimensional music experience in a small to modest room, these are

the speakers that should be at the top

of your list... There is amazing amount

of technology incorporated into the speakers, something pretty much unheard of at this price point. ... a

Jeff Dorgay Tone Audio

"If you want a highly immersive,

audio physic

No loss of fine detail

Can't Get it Out of my Head...

by Emily Duff

"A great song can change your life. I truly believe this. As a matter of fact, my life has been changed many times and I am a better woman, wife, mother and human for it. As a songwriter, it is my humble wish that someday someone will accuse me of changing their life too. When the great song does it's job, the great Live Show, in this case, *Rock Show*, will solidify that historical moment indelibly forever and ever, Amen. Perhaps this is my open letter to Jeff Lynne where I thank him from the bottom of my heart and soul for changing my life so many times. From the back seat of my Mama's car straight to my old KOSS curly-corded cans to my fancy wireless earbuds and most recently, Praise the Chord, in Section 327 at Madison Square Garden.

Tears of joy streamed down my face as every-song-a-hit triggered moments of passion, pain, beauty and transformation of my own beautiful life. I never realized how much of an ELO fan I was until the powerful parade of songs bathed me in the glow of pure nostalgia and resonated to my core. I felt "tuned." The only thing I can compare this feeling to is when the switch gets flipped on to light the Christmas tree for the first time. Naked joy. When Lynne sang "Can't Get it Out of My Head" I laughed out loud and knew that I would be going home to listen to ALL my ELO records and marvel at the sheer volume of genius etched into those grooves. Start wherever you like, *Face The Music* (1975), *A New World Record* (1976), *Out Of The Blue* (1977) and the list goes on. Seriously, you can't go wrong. Enjoy the Trip!





REFERENCE 160 M VACUUM TUBE POWER AMPLIFIER SOUND HAS NEVER BEEN SO TRANSPARENT



After two years in development, the all new REF160M is built like no other, looks like no other, and sounds like no other amplifier you have ever heard, yet is unmistakably Audio Research.

It features a new audio topology with less components in the signal-path, switchable Ultralinear/Triode operation, proprietary auto-bias, smart output tube monitoring and protection, an advanced power meter, and so much more.

The REF160M breaks new ground sonically, aesthetically and operationally. Contact your local Audio Research dealer for an audition.

audioresearch.com







It was 1982. I walked into One Way Records in Huntington, LI, seeing an album on display that intrigued me. As a female singer-songwriter-punkguitar player, I was immediately attracted to what other female artists on the rack were doing. As an artist in high school, it was all about escaping and being different, and I dared to be different (thank you, WLIR). European artists resonated with me. This one jumped out at me and stuck her finger in my eye. It was Nina Hagen and the record was a 10" EP with TV Glotzer (White Punks on Dope). Nina's versions of Lene Lovich's songs "Lucky Number," "African Reggae" and "Superboy" filled the grooves on the EP.

Released in the US in 1980 by CBS, it hit me like a ton of bricks. The guitars are rich and the overall band performances are the epitome of late 70's punk." African Reggae" is still one of my favorite songs to belt out in the shower.

As a teenager, these songs loomed large and hung out in my head like welcome visitors even though I really didn't know what she was singing half the time since it was in German and broken English. You know a song is great when you can't speak the language but you sing-a-long anyway. Nina Hagen will live in my head till I'm dead.

Neil Young is a dietary staple for me. More like the air that I breathe and the water I reach for when I'm thirsty, Neil Young records satisfy, restore and nourish me to vibrant health and well being. *On the Beach* always feels like a postcard from home. From the first track, "Walk on," you can feel the molecules realign. A perfect song. The tunes take you on a very visual tour, and by the time you get to "Ambulance Blues," you're wondering what planet you're on. Classic Neil-exposing his heart and soul, feeding us his pain and outrage is the theme de jour. This record sounds especially concerned. Perhaps the time, the place, the politics and the bullshit is closing in on ole Neil who is never afraid to share his feelings to "change us in the middle of the day." "Revolution Blues," "Vampire Blues," and "Ambulance Blues," are pretty bluesy titles for a record called "On the Beach." OTB sticks to me like sand on wet feet. Get *On the Beach* and let the rays of light warm your ears.

Donnie Fritts released a new record on August 31, 2018. "June" is a tribute to the great songwriter, Arthur Alexander who was a good friend of Fritts' as well as a musical collaborator. The title track is a heartfelt ode to Alexander written and sung with the voice of an aching and lonely brother. It recalls turbulent but tender times of friendship, personal growth, political upheaval and artistic explosion. The entire album is a river of tears; joyful and sorrow filled, with a hint of nostalgia but not a trace of regret. I am a rabid Donnie Fritts fan so I will tuck into anything this man touches. This time his Midas touch surely has produced GOLD. Released by Single Lock Records from Florence Alabama, Muscle Shoals proves that it is still on fire with the sweet soul music that put it on the map over 50 years ago. I could listen to "June" all day.

Maybe I will.

50 BRANDS8 DEMO ROOMS

1 LOCATION

















ML Low Output* **MH** High Output **Nude Microline Stylus** POM (Delrin®) Body **Metal Threaded Fittings Intergral Brass Cap**

HANA M SERIES MC CARTRIDGES

ASPIRING TOWARDS AFFORDABLE PERFECTION

High Purity Copper Low Impedance Coil* Alnico Magnet Cryogenic Treatment







If you're serious about bass...

Working in tandem with ARC™, the STR offers mulitple bass management profiles for two seperate subwoofers - making it one of the most versatile integrateds going. You can argue room correction and bass management all you want, but it works here, and it works brilliantly. You can even tweak the setup from your mobile device and the comfort of your listeningposition, making setup that much easier.

Read our full review here.



"...makes the EXOGAL's not only very interesting for lovers of well-kept desktop HiFi, but actually for every chic living environment, because the duo can be discreetly placed on almost any shelf or furniture.

...I call the musical experience with the EXOGAL's quite creatively and with full conviction "anti-digital".

...it offers a sound experience that is second to none in terms of price and size.

Frank Borowski, LowBeats.de, 9/21/2018



4657 Aspen Ridge Circle, Eagan, MN 55122

exogal.com

651-964-0698



Anthem's STR is an amazing deal and an amazing performer. Not only does it have 200 watts per channel on tap, it doubles down into four ohms and delivers over 500 watts per channel into two ohms with ease.

If you choose to keep it all in the family with a pair of Paradigm speakers (the Persona line is an amazing match) you'll be able to unseat the windows in your house. Those going elsewhere will have no speaker limitations.

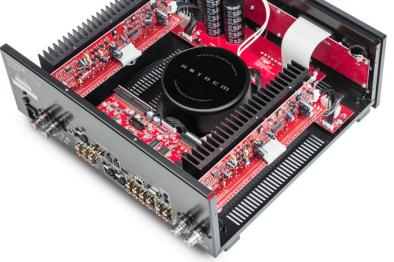
But the fun doesn't stop there. With a full featured MM/MC phono stage built in, offering a myriad of gain and loading options, as well as EQ choices for your really old LPs, analog playback is also without limits.

Digital is equally well represented, though the STR does not offer a streaming component. While we applaud Anthem for not being beholden to any particular technology, the convenience of being a ROON endpoint would be handy. But the STR is so good, this is by no means a deal breaker.

Purists in the crowd can bypass all digital processing in "analog direct" mode, which allows ARC™ and bass mangement to be completely shut off.

Finally, this beauty is built head to toe in Anthem's Canadian factory, and all boxes feature their new "Crafted in Canada" logo. This is one versatile amp.











Anthem STR

The Good:

21st-century design and interface Built in ARC™ Killer phonostage High res DAC on board Plenty of power on tap

Not so much:

Would love a streaming component built-in

The Verdict:

The STR is an exceptional 2-channel integrated, and the built in ARC^{TM} room correction with bass management for two subwoofers makes it really flexible

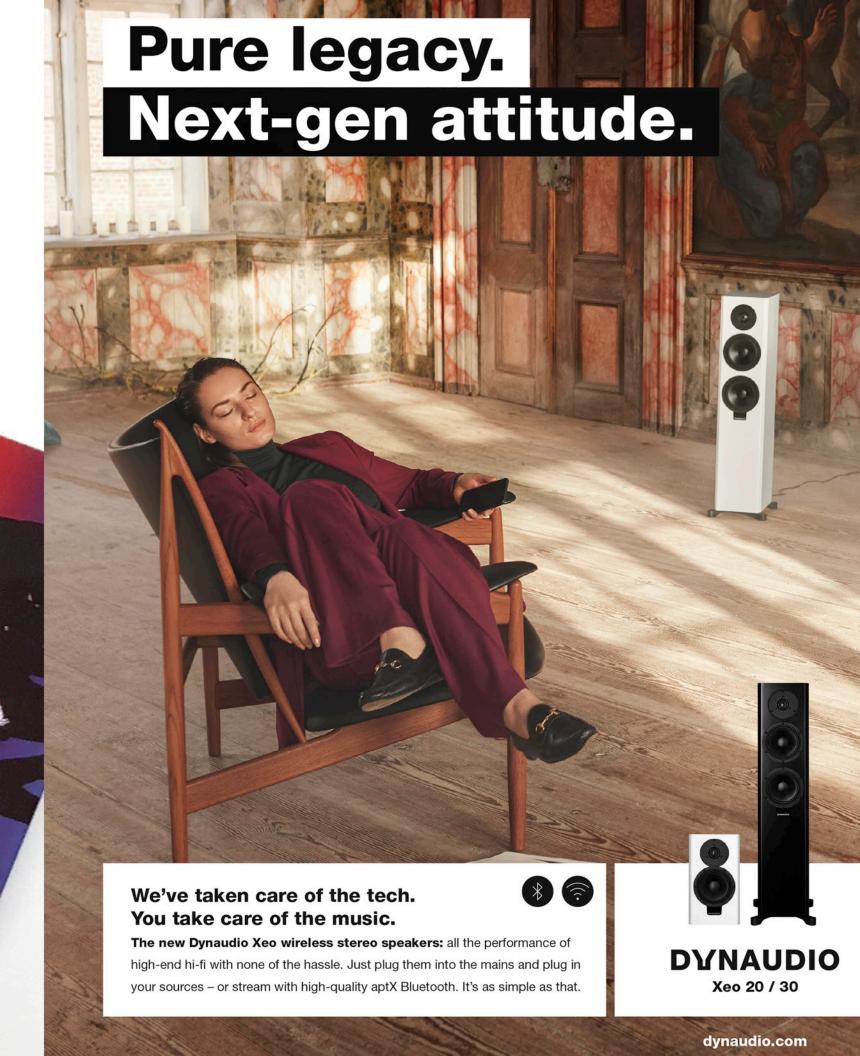
In House

The soundtrack of assembling the issue...

The Capitol Albums, Vol.1 - The Beatles

The Capitol albums have always been a source of controversy for major fans of the Fab Four, citing sub standard mastering, fake stereo and the like. Regardless, the box went platinum only two weeks after its release in December of 2004. Still, like an old friend on a road trip, these discs still bring back good memories.









Octave has always built vacuum tube amplifiers that bridge the gap between that etherial quality that so many tube fans find fascinating, yet have the power, drive and bass control that you would expect from a solid state amplifier.

Much like the way Porsche and BMW take what they learn solving engineering challenges with their flagship and race cars, Octave is always striving to improve their products and incorporating what they've learned with their Jubilee models.

The V 110SE is their most powerful integrated, delivering 110 watts per channel into a 4-ohm load, with a pair of KT120 tubes per channel.

Exquistely built, everything fits with a degree of precision reserved for the worlds finest components.

And the sound - glorious. Of course there's a bigger story to tell, and we are working on collecting more data.

For more product- specific info on the V 110SE, Just click here. We'll have a full review very soon.





, Uniti

ATOM — COMPACT HIGH-END ALL-IN-ONE

40-watt integrated amplifier and high-resolution music streaming capabilities with stunning high-fidelity sound.





Naim Audio Uniti Atom



naim

"[...] a level of sonic sophistication that so many of the Atom's competitors lack [...] the Atom is a killer choice!"

Home theater Review





































"I can't think of a better digital disc player than the PS Audio DirectStream Memory Player and DAC. If I had more than two thumbs to raise I would offer them, it's that good. The only remaining choice is whether you want silver or black."

---Jeff Dorgay, TONE Audio











Octave V 110SE

The Good:

Porsche - like German quality Uses KT120s instead of KT150s Variable damping factor helps mate to any speaker Optional MM or MC phono Can add Black Box power supply for even more versatility

Not so much:

Zero

The Verdict:

Another masterpiece from Octave

Playlist:

What Our Readers Are Into

Floating Points -Nuits Sonores

Anna Leone -If You Only

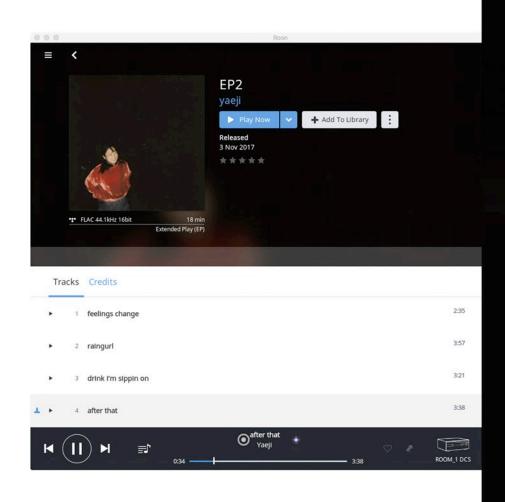
Yaeji - After That

Sebastian Teller -La Ritournelle

Gary Burton -Say You Will

Burt Bacharach, Wynonna Judd -Anyone Who Had A Heart

Kurt Elling -A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall



Besflores Nievera Jr. is the go to guy at Music Direct, but he's also a radio host in Chicago and an avid music aficionado. With all the vinyl they sell at MD, he's put together an interesting and eclectic list for us!

no.4 Illinois





New Flagship Integrated Amplifier L-509x



"The L-509X is one of the most intimate-sounding, dynamic, texturally nuanced, truthful purveyors of music of my experience." Ken Micallef

Luxman L-509x- Stereophile, May 2018



"A bang up to date design, in both engineering and sound... simply special"

Luxman L-509x- Hi-Fi News, January 2018

www.luxman-global.com



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THE COMPONENTS OF EXCELLENCE: LASTING VALUE

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Jim Hannon, VP/Group Publisher & Senior Writer, The Absolute Sound

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There are class-A amplifiers, and then there are class-A amplifiers. That the Sugden A21SE signature is a single ended class-A design, is a big part of its magic, setting it apart from the rest of the others.

Running the amplifier single ended makes for a lot more heat (and power consumption) than even a standard class-A amplifier, so this topology is not practical for a high powered amplifier. And, like the single ended triode tube amplifiers, only so much power can be channeled through a single output device.

But the sound. Oh yeah. Forget about everything else. The sound that comes out of the A21SE is beyond lovely. It's big, big sound. There's a level of sheer clarity that the A21 can muster, that few amplifiers at any price can. If you understand the difference between detail and clarity, you're getting close.

Those of you that live and die by the single ended triode know what we're talking about. That's what the A21SE offers by the bucket.

While the single ended tube amplifiers might serve up a few additional molecules of etherial "reach out and touch it - ness," they usually lack in bass control and the ability to really rock. Sometimes the chasm between 3 watts per channel and 30 is bigger than you might think.

That's where the A21SE fills the bill perfectly. Audio is nearly always a compromise, yet this is a pretty wonderful compromise to make. The tinest bit of breathiness for bass, dynamics and control - heck yeah.

This would all be cause for a much more intense argument if we were arguing the fine merits of six-figure amplifiers.

The Sugden A21SE will only set you back \$3,295.

We've never heard this level of musicality for that price, but remember, only 30 watts per channel, so not every pair of speakers will give you the results you desire.

Watch for the full story on our website very soon.

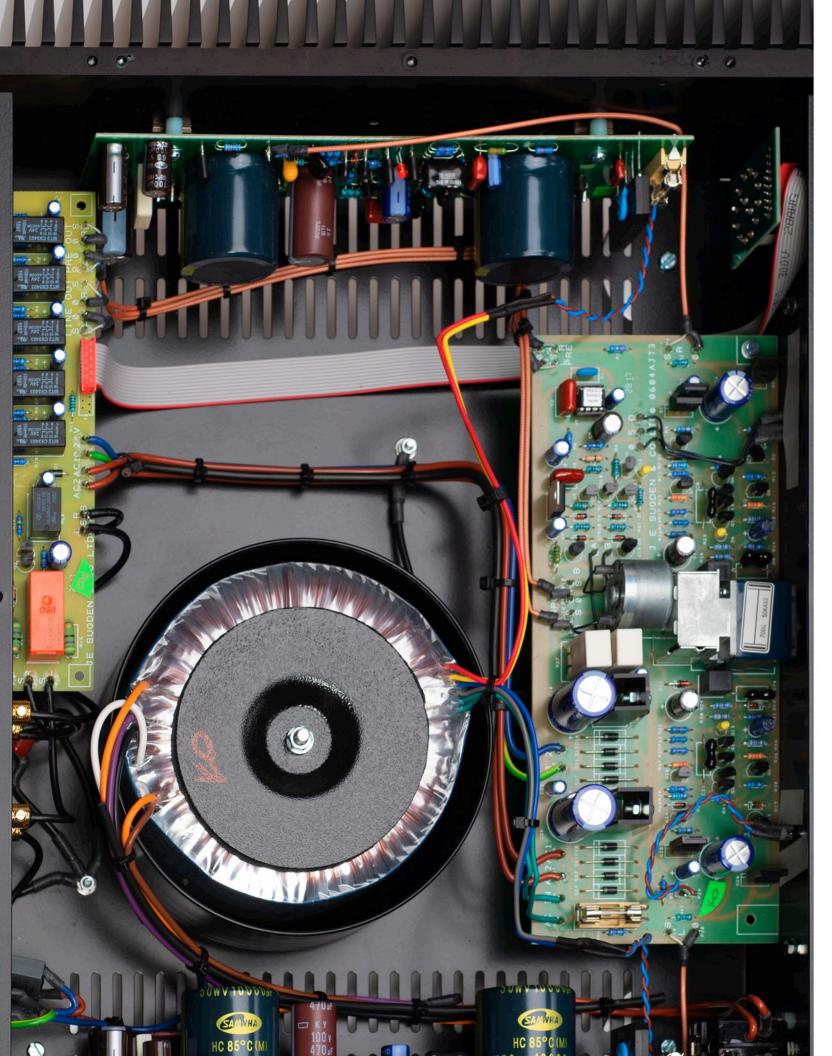


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Sudgen A21SE Signature

Engaging, beautiful sound
Top build quality from a well
established mfr
Doesn't take up much rack space
Simple, elegant interface
No tubes required!

Not so much:

There's only 30 watts per channel, so choose speakers wisely

The Verdict:

30wpc of pure audio heaven

Primare I35

Price: Config. dependent

www.musicdirect.com

Primare's I35 is available in three different configurations: the basic I35, with no digital capabilities, the I35DAC, which adds their DM35 digital module (DSD 256/768khz-32bit), and the Prisma model, pictured here. They all look the same from the front, but the Prisma model adds whole home control and connectivity under app control. Taking things even further, Bluetooth, AirPlay and Spotify Connect are all on board, as well as built-in Chromecast, which makes the I35 Roon ready.

The 30 series amplifiers have a well deserved reputation for fantastic sound, stellar build quality, and understated visual design. The new UDPD 2 power amplifier features 150 watts per channel, and like the model before it, defies pre-concieved notions of what you might think Class-D sounds like. It's actually quite good.

For the music lover wanting high performance, a modest form factor and stunning good looks, look no further.



"...these things sound just as elegant as they look.
Or is it, they look just as elegant as they sound?
Either way, the results are genuinely impressive."
High Def Digest



Beneath its timeless aesthetic and familiar curves, the new Aida has been completely overhauled. Years of tireless research and refinement have yielded a pristine electroacoustic engineering project featuring all-new drivers, crossovers and internal structuring. A dramatic improvement upon the speaker once called "as close to perfection as I have ever experienced."



Sonus faber

LIMITLESS IMMERSION

sonusfaber.com



Esoteric's F-07 is an incredible system anchor for a number of great reason. First, it produces 100 watts per channel into an 8-ohm load, with plenty of reserve, allowing an incredibly wide range of speaker choices.

And aside from it's striking good looks and billet build quality, it has a top-notch MM/MC phonostage built in, with the option for an excellent DAC in the accessory slot, eliminating the need for additional boxes. There's even a headphone jack *and* tone controls.

In case you missed it, you can read the full review here.



Audio Research VSi75

\$7,500

www.audioresearch.com

Somtimes, so much attention is paid to a company's flagship models, we lose sight of their products a bit lower down the range, and the excellent value they offer, because the effort spend on the top models is in full force in a more compact version.

The VSi75 is a perfect example of this, with a full compliment of KT150 tubes, and the same level of quality and functionality offered by ARCs REF components. But its form factor is more suited to a smaller environment.

You can read our full review here.









Prisma provides multi-room/multi-zone connectivity and control for playback of stored and streamed media, wired or wireless, all managed from a mobile device through a dedicated system control app.

In addition to Bluetooth®, AirPlay, and Spotify Connect, Prisma features Chromecast built-in, a unique streaming portal allowing effortless direct connection to hundreds of streaming applications, including Roon, TIDAL, Qobuz, Deezer, Google Play Music, and TuneIn radio, for the best possible performance and user experience.

Initially available in the new 115 Prisma integrated amplifier, 135 Prisma integrated amplifier, and CD35 Prisma CD player – with more to come.

▶ For more on all our new Primare models go to primare.net











Micromega M-One \$4,995 and up

www.audioplusservices.con



U2R 31

Micromega's M-One is a wonderful all in one integrated, picking up the compact, flat look where Devialet started. Offering similar (if not better) performance for a much more reasonable price, the M-One still has a sleek case, which can also be ordered in a roainbow of fashionable colors to blend into any decor. In addition to the base model, which features a DSD capable DAC, and DSP room correction, an optional MM/MC phonostage and binural headphone amplifier is also available.

The M-One's 100 wpc proves a perfect match for our Focal Sopra no.3s, as well as all of the other speakers auditioned with it, and features plenty of single ended RCA and balanced XLR inputs, so it is infinitely flexible. To make this an even better package deal, it will be ROON ready very soon. Read part one of Rob Johnson's review here. We'll report back for part two as soon as it is ROON capable.

Playlist: What Our Readers Are Into

Trentmoller - Take me Into Your Skin

Portishead - The RIP

Katie Melua - Spiders Web

Aphex Twin - Tha

W.A. Mozart - Voi Che Sapete

Bonobo - Flashlight

Manu Chao - Me Gusta tu

Vitalic - Pony Part 1

Jamie XX - Seesaw

Mum - We Have a Map of The Piano



Our pal Remi Versterre moderates the PrimaLuna Owners Group on Facebook. If you own or are interested in a PrimaLuna product, this is a very friendly group of people to hang out with.



THE KANTA FAMILY IS GROWING







"F" cones are constructed of a very high quality Flax fibre core sandwiched between two thin layers of glass fibre.

66 If you want more than a taste of the

KANTA N°2 - HIFI CHOICE

real high-end, this is the place to start "

These cones satisfy all the essential criteria of a high-performance diaphragm: high internal damping for a very neutral and natural sound, light weight for exceptional speed and dynamics, and high rigidity for a tight and controlled

Flax cones are designed and manufactured in France to Focal's exacting standards, and are also used in Car Audio, Pro Audio, Home Speakers and Custom Integration products.



With Kanta, the treble register is reproduced by a new pure Beryllium tweeter. This IAL3 tweeter combines the IAL (Infinite Acoustic Loading) and IHL (Infinite Horn Loading) tweeters features, both of which help with the absorption of waves, thus lowering the tweeter frequency.

To this day, only one material permits a joining of these parameters: Beryllium. For domes with identical masses. Beryllium is seven times more rigid than Titanium or Aluminum. This results in a sound wave three times faster than Titanium and two and a half times faster than Aluminum.

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



TQ Statement Speaker Cables

\$9,000/pair (approximate) www.telluriumq.com

Designer Geoff Merrigan has come up with another winner with his recent "Statement" cables. We've been using the TQ Silver Diamonds with excellent result for some time now, but the new Statement cables reveal more music and a cleaner, more crisp view of the musical presentation.

BAT VK-12SE Phono Stage

\$9,995

www.musicdirect.com

When was the last time you picked up a phono stage that weighed 40 pounds? The BAT VK12, here in its SE form does just that, partly because of its massive power supply.

Past BAT phono stages have always been incredible performers, and they offer a further upgrade path to their top "super pak" model. Review in process.



ROON Nucleus+

\$2,500

www.roonlabs.com

The team at ROON comes full circle, now with a hardware platform of their own. Yes, you can run ROON on a PC or Mac, but the Nucleus and Nucleus + have their own OS that has been optimized specifically for the ROON environment. It succeeds brilliantly.



Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...

conrad-johnson ET7 s2 Preamplifier \$9,999 www.conradjohnson.com

C-J says that they have incorporated a lot of what they have learned in the s2 update of their

flagship GAT preamplifier into the design of the ET7 s2.

but if you're a CJ fan, we'll issue a "buy" on the ET-7.

Our review sample is sounding quite good so far, and this is looking to be a class leader. We'll have more info for you soon,

Formula xHD

- Proprietary Optologic DAC
- Pure FPGA-based R2R Ladder
- Fully-floating (isolating) D/A converter system
- Hybrid USB xCore 200 (dual core) in Bit Perfect up to 768 kHz PCM and DSD 256
- Filterless Non-oversampling digital architecture



Unconventional DNA











La Diva cd transport

aqua acoustic quality

aquahifi.com

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...



\$799

www.musicdirect.com

Surprisingly, the company that made the electrostatic speaker famous with their legendary 57s, would make a planar phone

However, the proof's in the listening, and these set a new benchmark for the price category. Watch for full reviews here and at our other pub, Headphone Arts soon.



Zodiac

The sky's no longer the limit



GamuT®

Future Tense

Reviews in our immediate future...

PS Audio Direct Stream P15 Power Plant

\$7,499 www.psaudio.com

We've been using the DirectStream P20 for a few months now with excellent results. For many, it will take care of power needs for an entire system, especially if you can run it from a dedicated, 20-amp AC line.

Those of you with larger stystems, needing a seperate power source for your line level components, or a smaller overall system that doesn't need as much juice as the P20 can deliver, the P15 fits the bill perfectly at a lower cost.

The sonic effect/improvement is identical.





Photos courtesy of PS Audio



Clarity by Design

Transparent Uncolored Accurate.

This is what made the sound of the original British Broadcasting Corporation monitors legendary. Graham Audio has made it their mission to continue this legacy, and to bring the Chartwell LS3/5 and LS3/5A, the Chartwell LS6, the LS5/8 and LS5/9 to a broader global audience.

Drawn from many years of BBC research, and through the engineering genius of Derek Hughes, these speakers have been recreated using state of the art materials and technology under license from the BBC. A new addition to this series is the Chartwell Sub 3, a bespoke compact, passive sub-woofer designed to be used in conjunction with the LS3/5 monitors.

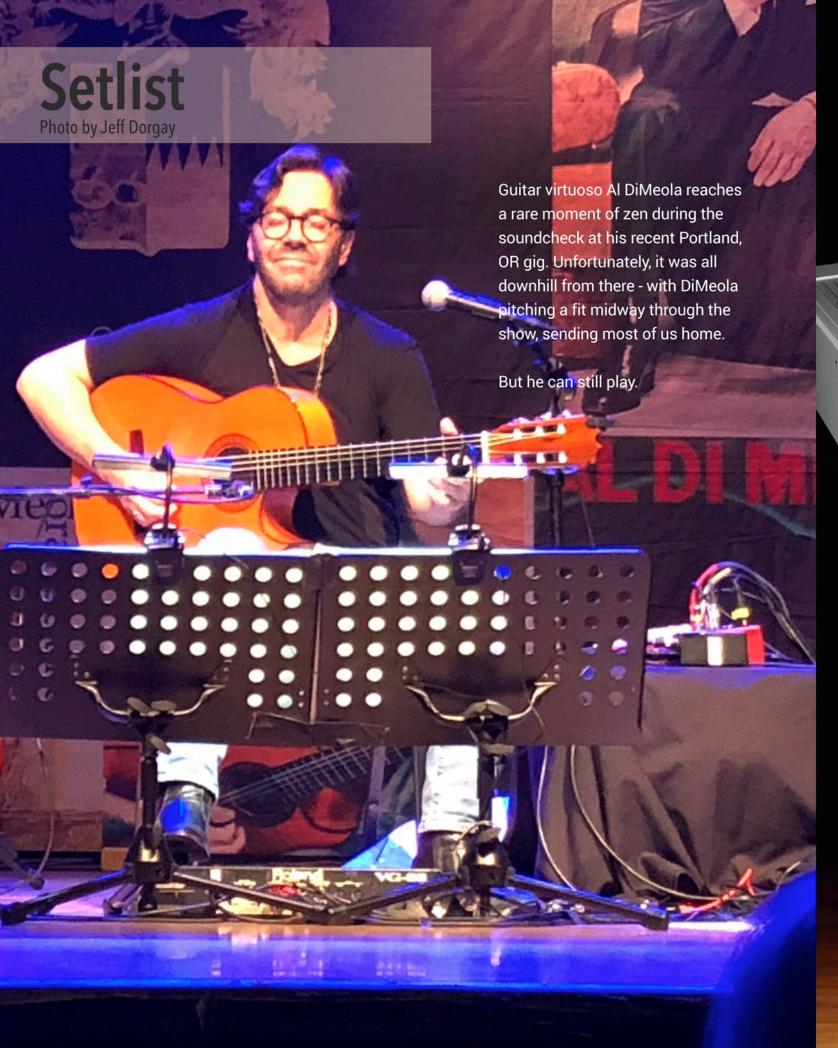
Graham Audio are also proud to announce the VOTU, their flagship 1000 watts per channel, high-end monitor for large studios and listening rooms. Effortless dynamics and vast detail come as standard.

...hear the difference





Distributed in the United States by: Graham Audio USA www.grahamaudiousa.com | info@grahamaudiousa.com





Integrated Wonders

The new Esoteric integrated amplifiers represent a new level of musicality and resolution.

They also represent a new level of value.

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The precision of an Esoteric preamplifier with the authority of an Esoteric power amplifier - in one gorgeous, premium built chassis -

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For more information on Esoteric products such as the new F-Series, or to find your Esoteric dealer please visit: http://www.esoteric-usa.com

Dealers That Mean Business:

You've read all the reviews, you've argued with the internet pundits,

and you're ready to write a check. Now what? If you're a slightly used customer that likes to shop for the best bargain you can find on Audiogon, this article is not for you. And, controversial though it might sound, I'm not against Audiogon. If you want a gently pre-owned preamp, love music, and just don't want to buy new, I get that – as long as you know what you're getting into. Audiogon can be a great place to buy pre owned gear if you know exactly what you want - and don't expect ANY service. But someone has to buy it new, so you can buy it used – remember that!

If you are the customer that likes to buy new, loves the feel (and the smell) of taking it out of the box for the first time, knowing no one else has touched it, I get that too. Personally, I'm about 50/50 on this experience, as I am with cars. Ask anyone who's bought a preamp or a used car from me, it's usually pretty pampered.

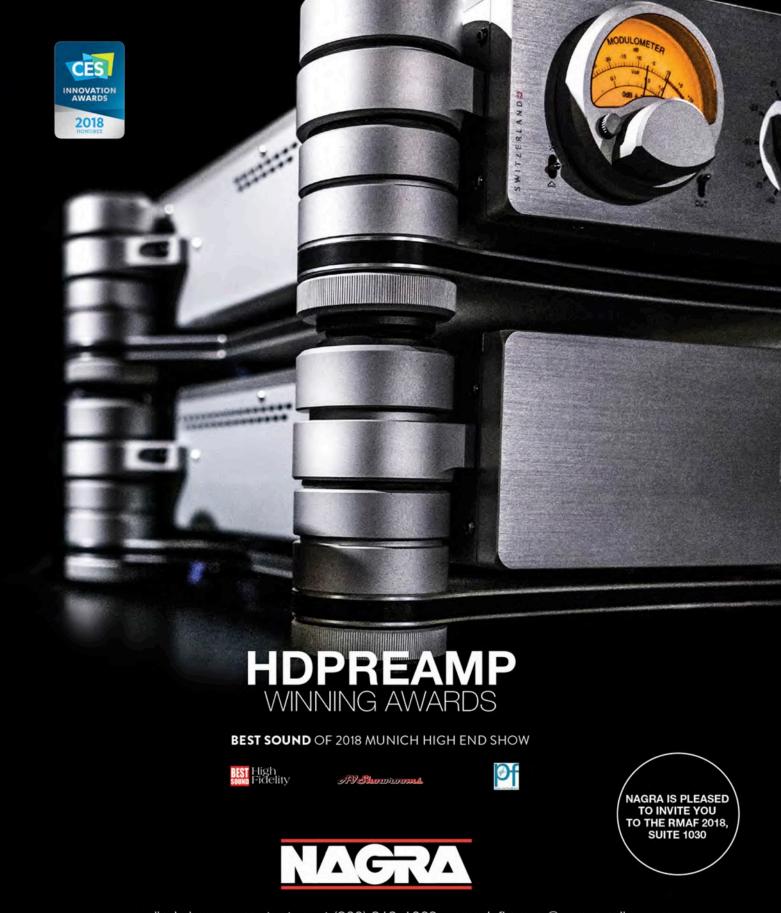
However, if you are going to spring for new gear, you need a good dealer. Someone who understands you, your music and most of all your perspective. You need someone to help you find the right components that will work together as a system, help you set it up in some cases, and offer support when things don't work out as planned. There's no substitute for experience, and a great dealer knows their products, and knows what will work best for you.

Nearly every audio system that has failed to achieve the greatness expected of it can be traced back to poor component choice (system and/or room) synergy and poor component setup. I've been to hifi shows, homes, and dealers all over the world – hearing sound good, bad, and somewhere inbetween. It always boils down to these two factors if something isn't truly broken, and it rarely is.

The solution is easy. Find a great dealer. While there isn't a hifi shop on every corner like there was back in the 70s, there are still some truly great dealers out there that will help you put together a stunning music system, regardless of your budget. And I'm on a mission to find as many of them as I can for you.

I'm starting with the folks I know, in this new section of the magazine. Most of the establishments in this list are running full page ads in the magazine – and there is a caveat. I will not accept advertising in this magazine from a dealer unless I've been to their place, seen the shop and have talked to a cross section of their customers to know they provide superior service. In most cases, these are hifi shops that I, or someone on the staff has purchased gear from as well.

These are not just people wanting to buy space in TONEAudio. Every one of these dealers carry my personal endorsement, and I hope that will help you on your journey. As we go forward, look for the "TONEAudio Approved Dealer" sticker on your favorite establishment. Know a great dealer, that you've had superior service from? Let me know, I would like to pay them a visit and add them to the list.



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US dealers: The Audio Salon, Santa Monica CA | Audio Salon, Miami FL | David Lewis Audio, Philadelphia PA | EarsNova, New York NY David Michael Audio, Detroit MI | Don Better Audio, Cleveland OH | Goodwin's High End, Boston MA | JS Audio, Washington DC Musical Artisans, Chicago IL | Music Lovers, San Francisco CA | Ne Plus Ultra, Austin TX | Arizona Hi-Fi, Phoenix AZ Canada dealers: Audio Eden, Toronto ON | Element Acoustics, Vancouver BC | Filtronique, Montreal QC

San Francisco - AudioVision San Francisco

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La Verne, Califonia - Upscale Audio

www.upscaleaudio.com 2058 Wright Avenue La Verne, California 91750

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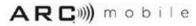
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Portland, Oregon - Echo Audio

www.echohifi.com 1015 SW Washington Street Portland, Oregon 97205 888.248.3246



Marietta, Georgia - The Audio Company

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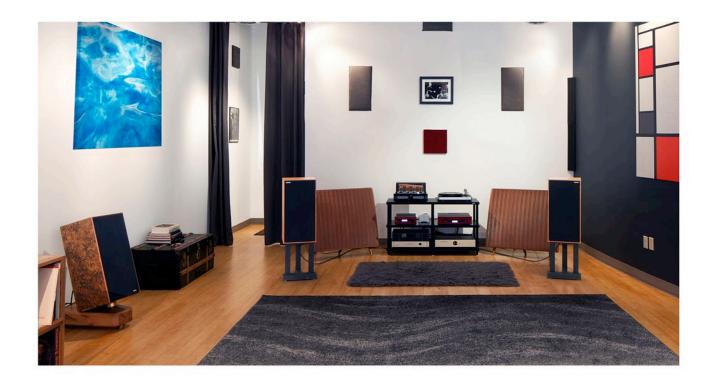
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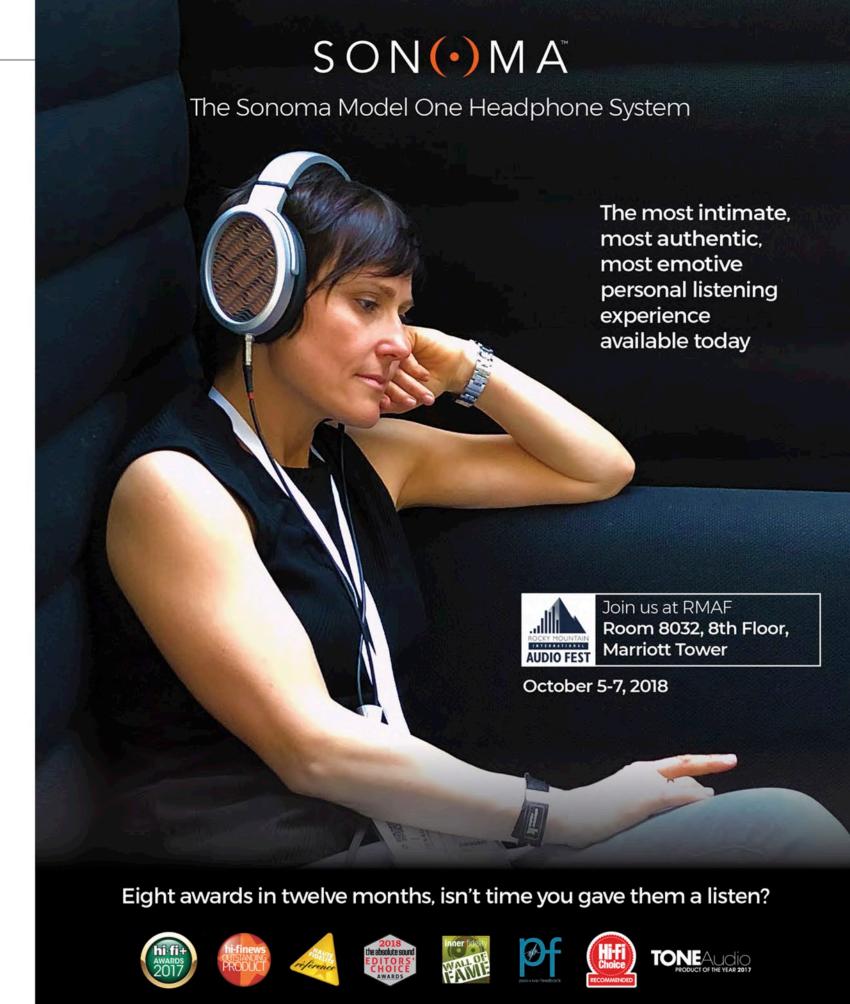


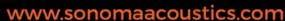
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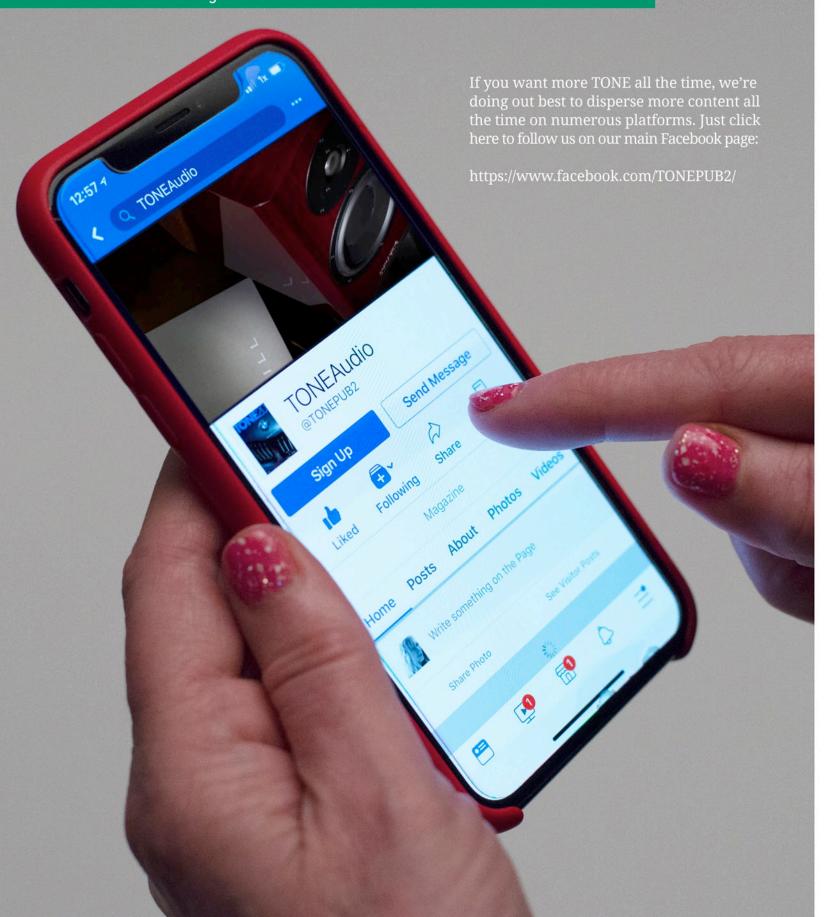
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bowers-wilkins.com



Socially Speaking

TONEAudio's Online hangouts





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"PrimaLuna's DiaLogue Premium HP is an integrated amplifier whose sound quality approaches that of pairings of reference Class A preamps and power amps. PrimaLuna has another winner"

— Robert Deutsch, Stereophile



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DiaLogue Premium HP Integrated Amplifier The finest tube integrated at any price. Any.

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> ZAVALINKA RECORDS



Pure Analog Recording









"no matter what I listened to, I couldn't imagine the sound being much better"

Soundstage! June 2017

Technology

Bryston's new patented Salomie Circuit is a revolutionary new way to reduce distortion and noise unveiling never before heard details only hinted at by other equipment. The input stage operates at distortion of less than 0.001 percent!

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Cubed Series technology is available in 10 different amplifiers ranging from the B135³ integrated at 135 watts per channel, the venerable 4B³ at 300 watts by two channels, to the incredible 28B³ 1000 watt mono block.

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For the first time, Bryston brings Cubed Series to the front end. Our new BP-17³ Preamplifier features the Salomie Circuit from input to output reproducing higher resolution than ever before.

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A change is in the works... Stay tuned





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> rega shinola sme

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woo audio

unison research

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Aqua	www.aquahifi.com
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AudioVision SF	www.audiovisionsf.com
Audio Research	www.audioresearch.com
Audolici	www.audolici.com
Audua Flight	www.audioluxllc.com
Boulder	www.boulderamp.com
Bowers & Wilkins	www.bowers-wilkins.com
Brinkmann	www.brinkmann-audio.com
Cardas	www.cardas.com
Clearaudio wv	w.musicalsurroundings.com
Conrad-Johnson	www.conradjohnson.com
dCS	www.dcsltd.co.uk
Dynaudio	www.dynaudio.com
E.A.T.	www.vanaltd.com
Esoteric	www.esoteric-usa.com
Echo Audio	www.echohifi.com
Exogal	www.exogal.com
Focal	www.audioplusservices.com
Gamut	www.gamutaudio.com
Gig Harbor Audio	www.gigharboraudio.com
Gold Note	www.goldnote.it
Golden Ear	www.goldenear.com
Graham Audio	www.grahamaudiousa.com
Grand Prix Audio	www.grandprixaudio.com

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HiFI Centre	www.hificentre.com
Koeppel Design	www.koeppeldesign.com
Linn Audio	www.linn.co.ul
Luxman	www.luxman.com
McIntosh	www.mcintoshlabs.con
MartinLogan	www.martinlogan.com
Musical Fidelity	www.audioplusservices.con
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PS Audio	www.psaudio.com
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Last Word

Our parting thought to ponder.

The Way it Used to be: The Pioneer SA-9500

As we wrap up this issue dedicated to the integrated amplifier, Mr. O'Brien and I were reminiscing about those massive amps we grew up with, chock full of buttons and switches. The issue begins and ends with Pioneer.

Immediately the TA-9500 came up, and being that he, I, and a couple of our buddies all had them, it was a good chat indeed over a few ales. Honestly, the SA-9500 still sounds pretty good today, with a large power supply and the inputs and outputs on opposites sides of the amp, to minimize the circuit path. With 80 watts per channel, into 8-ohms and a bit more into a 4-ohm load, the 9500 was a perfect match for a pair of JBL L-100s!

If you can find one today, they are starting to reach \$1,000, if you can find one like the example below. (of course, Mr. O'Brien has one...)



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