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THE JOURNAL OF HIGH-END AUDIO

JANUARY 2024

Solution 727 Preamplifier



JANUARY 2024

\$8.99 US / \$10.99 CAN



16 Pages of New Music Features and Reviews

DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 20, 2024



Product of the Year Awards

Tube Integrated Amplifier of the Year

Icon Audio Stereo 40 MkIV Signature
\$5295

Solid-State Integrated Amplifier of the Year

Roksan Attesa Streaming Amplifier
\$3399

The Roksan Attesa turned out to be a real sleeper. More importantly, the new 80Wpc power output and contemporary functionality embodies where today's marketplace lives. Attesa is Roksan's first integrated DAC; it includes network streaming capability and a fine moving-magnet phono stage. Sonic performance registers high scores across all genres of music. The Attesa is grain- and edge-free and doesn't shade or spotlight particular frequency bands. It maintains a ripe and natural midrange, a firmly controlled bass, and a smooth if slightly dry top end. It is especially good at imparting dynamic energy in both the macro and micro senses; transient information never grows weak-kneed in the face of large dynamic swings. Throughout, there is an untrammelled clarity to every note. Looks, ergonomics, and performance all fall into place for this Solid-State Integrated Amplifier of the Year. (335)

The Stereo 40 evolved significantly over the years since its introduction in 2001. The current MkIV iteration was unveiled in 2019 and features improved performance and functionality via the addition of headphone capability. Designer David Shaw loves the sound of the 6SN7 tube and has selected the Psvane CV181 clear-glass type for the front-end cascode gain stage and phase splitter. Elegantly styled and easy to bias, the Stereo 40 actually delivers 55Wpc at clipping from a pair of KT88 beam power tubes. It uses a tried-and-true Ultralinear output stage and is switchable to triode mode via a toggle switch on the front panel. Selectable feedback (0, 6, and 12dB) makes for flexible system integration. Its low noise floor contributes to the exceptional resolution of orchestral harmonic layers. Low-level detail floats to the surface naturally without the help of any gratuitous upper-midrange brightness. It is far more revealing than that great and beloved classic UL amplifier, the Dynaco ST-70, which practically sounds fuzzy by comparison. The Stereo 40 propels the music forward with an excellent boogie factor, refined grain-free textures, and fidelity to tonal colors. The Stereo 40 Signature version (as reviewed) satisfied DO's appetite for glorious tube sound. An attractive confluence of musical attributes catapults it into the elite class of integrated tube amps and to the winner's circle as Tube Integrated Amplifier of the Year. (335)

