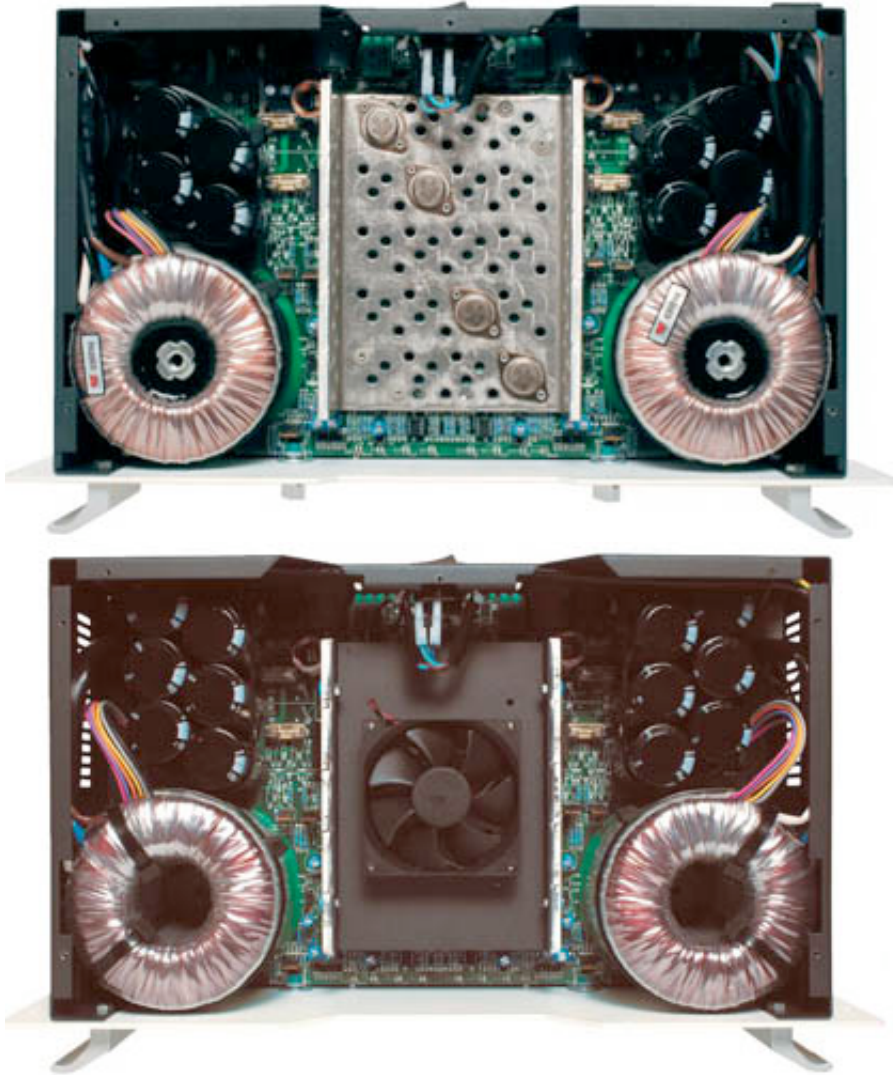


DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH



It is the difference in height that permits the Studio B to hold its 1600 VA transformers and its enormous filter condensers. The two amplifiers have armour-clad

toroidal transformers of the bigger model are substantially higher! On the front panel you find two monophonic volume controls (26dB) for each channel, the ALPS model, to name them.

At the rear, you find two pairs of gilded input collars (low tension) XLR Neutrik (one male, one female), and a pair of silvered collars of the usual SpeakOn type, and also Neutrik (1 + & 2 -). Practically

unheard of in personal audio systems (other than on certain A2 speakers and for the Linn Klimax 500 Solo units), these connectors are, nevertheless, extremely efficient, though incompatible with most of the ready-wired HP cables.

This is the reason why PS Audio also includes two unwired SpeakOn jacks with its units. The two amplifiers have armour-clad protection such as

SoftStart (slow switch-on), and progressive warm-up (around 5 seconds), automatic thermal protection (85° C) and automatic direct current protection. Inside, significant differences exist in power input. Thus, the Studio A boasts of two toroidal transformers of 800VA (60°) as compared to two 1600 VA (60°) for the Studio B. The filter condensers total 2 x 40 000 μ F/100 V for the smaller, and 2 x 60 000 μ F/120 V for the bigger one. To conclude, in the power stage, the Studio A shows 2 x 2 MJ21196 as compared to twice the amount for the Studio B.

Utilisation

Other than following precautions relating to specific connections and respecting the electrical phasing, setting up these units is extremely easy. However, they have to be allowed quite a long warming-up period (around twelve hours) to be able to really enjoy their musical quality, and have to be kept powered up, as the master switch placed at the rear encourages you to do.

Sound characteristics

TONALITY - STUDIO A: As we pointed out previously, during the test bench previously conducted with this unit (Haute Fidélité N° 108), the Studio A offers a beautiful harmonic variation for an appliance in this price range and is quitesweet and clear. The sharps are not over-brilliant, yet pack a lot of energy. The mediums are present, rich, and not overcharged. It keeps to the elegant side of neutrality, without adding any particular colour. Lastly, the bass is both lively and precise, well controlled, with remarkable energy, in quantity and clarity.