

Audio Research 150.2 Power Amplifier

The two-channel version of the 150M from Audio Research is now available. We have been using it for about two months now and have had nothing but fun in that time. It uses the same basic circuit as the highly regarded 150M amplifier in a more compact but similarly styled chassis. Power output is rated at 150 watts per channel into 8 ohms truly doubles to 300 watts into 4 ohms. The 150.2 is designed to run so cool that you barely tell its powered on or affecting your electric bill so we recommend that it be left on at all times for best sound.

And oh, man, does it sound good. This is the best solid-state amplifier we have yet heard. There are fewer transistor artifacts with this amplifier when compared with previous solid-state models. The sound is open, relaxed and friendly with excellent bass and dynamics. Imaging is precisely focused without sounding over-etched or analytical and there is just less of the glaze that plagues other transistor designs.

This great sound does not come by accident. Audio Research spent a great deal of time researching ways to better implement the Class T digital output module used in the 150.2. They built numerous prototypes with various techniques and modifications employed that strayed away from the standard practices used by their competitors. The result is the best sounding Class T amplifier in the world and arguably one of the most natural sounding transistor amplifiers in existence.

All of which makes its price tag of \$2495 an incredible bargain. So good in fact, that people who want really big sound and even more power have been purchasing two and running them in a bi-amp configuration with up to 600 w/ch into 4 ohms!

3/2004