



INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER OF THE YEAR (OVER £10,000) German Physiks Emperor



“The amplifier might be all about precision and control, but it’s also a rich and inviting sound. It’s an amplifier of great poise.”

Although best known as a loudspeaker maker, German Physiks has long since taken steps to make sure its core products are heard under the best possible conditions. This moved from ‘showcasing’ the core product to creating an outstanding product line in its own right in the Emperor amplifier range from the company. Big, bold and powerful, the five-strong amplifier range begins with the 60kg, 300W per channel Emperor integrated amplifier.

This integrated amplifier combines the electronics from the Emperor preamplifier and Emperor stereo power amplifier in one chassis. All the components are mounted onto a heavy-duty internal steel chassis. An outer chassis is attached to this and is made from 15mm thick machined aluminium. Inside, the amplifier uses extensive heatsinking to aid reliability and longevity; in use, this Class AB powerhouse rarely even gets warm, despite using an impressive 12 bi-polar output devices per channel. The preamp section is located on a second level under the power amplifier boards. As with the power section, this is constructed as two mono channels and is fully balanced, with a relay-switched resistor network volume control, using close tolerance resistors for channel-tracking accuracy. All signal switching is done by relays to keep signal paths as short as possible and minimise noise pick-up.

In our test, Alan Sircom noted that, “There’s a sense of absolute unburstability here; possibly thanks to a stiff power supply that doubles its power from eight-ohms to four and once again into two-ohms.” He also pointed out that, “It exudes a sense of quiet confidence, physical control and presence because nothing fazes the Emperor amp.”

He also felt that, “the amplifier might be all about precision and control, but it’s also a rich and inviting sound. It’s an amplifier of great poise.” Adding that the Emperor had “a profound sense of stereo staging, a fully three-dimensional experience rooted in a sense of solidity and presence.” +

Reviewed in Issue **199**

German Physiks | german-physiks.com