

POWER AMPLIFIERS
OF THE YEAR

COST-NO-OBJECT

CH Precision M1

\$94,750/pr.

This deluxe, Swiss-made, bridgeable (or adaptable to stereo), high-current, high-power, 200W Class AB monoblock amplifier—authored by the same engineers, Florian Cossy and Thierry Heeb (the C and H of CH Precision) who designed Goldmund's distinguished electronics back in the day—seems to have a good deal of the technological DNA of another Swiss company's, Soudation's, world-class electronics. Like last year's Overall Product of the Year Award-winning Soudation 701/711 amplifiers, the M1 is ultra-fast on transients, ultra-high in resolution, and ultra-low in noise and coloration. CH Precision's amp and preamp use no global negative feedback at their default setting (although users can add as much or as little NFB as they choose by means of menus accessed via the LED screen built into the amp's front panel). When the amps are configured in their default position, JV reports that he would be hard put to choose between the M1 and Soudation's 711, save for the midbass and power range, where the SMPS-powered Soudation (the CH Precision uses an extraordinarily high-quality transformer-based

power supply) still holds an edge in weight, impact, and color. However, when it comes to overall resolution, it is a different story. Indeed, with less of a dark (i.e., "bottom-up") balance, the CH Precision draws ahead in this area. Indeed, the M1 is the highest-resolution solid-state amplifier JV has auditioned since the Technical Brain TBP-Zero/EX. If you're shopping for the best in solid-state, you definitely need to hear this Swiss marvel. Which, of course, is why it's winning this year's Product of the Year award for cost-no-object amplifier. JV, review in this issue