

A1.5 Two-channel Power Amplifier



Like its bigger brother, the M1.1 Reference power amplifier, there's a lot more to the A1.5 than meets the eye – just in a more compact and more affordable form...

Faced with exactly the same challenges as the M1.1, the A1.5 embodies the same sophisticated, modular and scalable approach. It might be (slightly) smaller than the M1.1 and around two-thirds of its weight, but it's still four amplifiers in one. It still offers the same adaptable, software controlled topology, adjustable input configuration and gain, user selectable global feedback ratio and cost-effective upgrade path. It offers exactly the same, incredibly short signal path, fully discrete, fully balanced and fully complementary circuit, built with the same carefully selected components to the same exacting standards. Even the casework, although shorter, has the same footprint, uses the same construction and includes the same mechanical grounding/stacking system. In fact, in every important way, the A1.5 is, quite literally, an M1.1 writ small – or, in Hollywood terms, “Honey, I shrank the amp...”

But in this case, loss of weight doesn't mean a loss of quality. The power transformer and reservoir capacitance are identical in type and design to those in the M1.1. The A1.5 inevitably delivers less power than our Reference amplifier, but with a conservatively rated output of 150 watts/channel, it's definitely no lightweight, performing with real dynamic range and authority – and it does it all at a considerable saving in cost. It might not match the awesome headroom capabilities of the M1.1 under the most demanding loads, or do it in the largest of large rooms, but in many systems and with many speakers you simply don't need or can't use that capacity. Combine the A1.5's impressive real-world performance and increased affordability with its adaptable, configurable topology and suddenly you have a serious slice of M1.1 performance – but in a much more manageable package.

With the same transparency, resolution and engaging, communicative musical qualities as the M1.1, the A1.5 is an

incredibly capable and convincing performer, the perfect partner for a whole host of high-quality speakers. In any other range it would be the flagship model and it delivers performance to match. But what happens when the upgrade urge strikes, you can accommodate bigger speakers or you want more from your system? As impressive as a single A1.5 undoubtedly is, adding a second A1.5 to your system unleashes the monster within, because, just like the M1.1, the configurable input/output topology of the A1.5 makes it an amplifier that, once doubled up, becomes considerably more than the sum of its parts. User configurable, via the front-panel buttons or the CH-Control App, the A1.5 is not only a conventional stereo amplifier: it is a high-current mono-bloc; it is a high-power bridged mono-bloc and perhaps most important of all, it can be adapted for bi-amping, a single input being routed to both channels. That not only saves on the need for additional interconnects, the gain and global feedback ratio can be set independently for each channel, allowing further control over bass output and room matching. But most critically of all, vertical bi-amping maximizes dynamic range and system headroom, allowing the A1.5 to grow with your speakers' demands and your musical and system ambitions.

The A1.5 – the not so 'little' power amp that punches well above its weight!

“Importantly, the improvements result in a more musically engaging delivery. The A1.5 is nothing short of a giant killer amp. Yup: miracles do exist! Even at 3 minutes into the listening session, I already knew that there was no way back!”

CHRISTIAN PUNTER, HIFI-ADVICE.COM

Physical And Conceptual Modularity

- Modular input boards to match system topology (one or two inputs as required)
- Output stage can deliver 2x 150W RMS into 8 Ohms stereo, 150W into 8 Ohms mono (high-current), 550W mono (bridged) or 2x 150W bi-amped (single input, differential channel gain and global feedback settings)

Analog Input Stage

- Pure class A, fully symmetrical circuit topology
- Fully discrete, ultra low noise, high slew rate design
- DC coupled with no series capacitors in the audio signal path
- Gain adjustable through 24dB in 0.5dB steps

Analog Output Stage

- Pure class A ultra low noise driver and class AB pure follower power stage
- ExactBias circuitry ensures constant bias, independent of room temperature and amplifier loading
- Constant monitoring of output power and temperature
- User configurable display will show amplifier status, power output etc
- Customized Argento loudspeaker binding posts, accept spades and banana connectors

Power Supply

- 1700VA power transformer mounted on separate, mechanically isolated chassis bed to eliminate mechanical vibration
- Magnetically and electrostatically shielded transformers to reduce noise and EM interference
- Hyper fast, soft recovery diode bridge rectifiers meet dynamic demands without strain
- Twin 82,000uF custom-built, ultra low ESR reservoir and filtering capacitors

User Adjustable Global Feedback

- Ratio of Global to Local Feedback can be adjusted from 0% to 100%, in six steps (0, 10, 20, 40, 70, 100%) via the user interface or control app
- Allows user optimization of amplifier/speaker interface, especially low-frequency damping relative to speaker/room interaction
- Each channel can be adjusted individually to control specific drivers/ranges in bi-amplification modes

Light Touch Protection

- No output relay in signal path; full short circuit protection
- Non-invasive output stage voltage, current and temperature monitoring protects your amplifier – and your speakers

Optional Hardware Monaural Analog Input Board

- Option board needed for stereo and active applications (only buy the inputs you need)
- XLR, RCA and 75 Ohm BNC inputs
- Balanced pass-through for daisy-chaining amplifiers in multi-amp systems
- **Existing A1 amplifiers factory upgradable to full A1.5 specification**

