

Reference 160S

Stereo Amplifier



audio research



The Reference 160S establishes a remarkable new benchmark for stereo amplifiers, offering transparent and effortless playback performance while allowing the tonal beauty of the music to shine through and captivate the listener.

Receiving amplifier-of-the-year awards from the publications Stereophile, The Absolute Sound and HiFi+ for the monaural 160M is almost unheard of. Encapsulating that acclaimed performance and beauty in one chassis was difficult, but Audio Research's engineers accomplished that feat in the 160S stereo amplifier.

The 160S carries-over the stunning look of the 160M, with dual GhostMeters™ that float in front of eight KT-150 output power tubes. It also continues the feature set introduced in the 160M, including a proprietary auto-bias circuit, switchable Triode- or Ultralinear-mode operation, true balanced and single-ended inputs, and output tube monitoring. The four-layer circuit board allows music to emerge from a jet-black background, never achieved before in a vacuum-tube amplifier. Except for the 160M.

The Reference 160S distills the astonishing resolution, dynamic impact, musical purity, and finesse of the 160M into one beautiful and attainable chassis. It was designed for the music lover in all of us.

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency response: +0-3dB, 0.4Hz to 200kHz at rated output (Balanced, 200k ohms load). **THD:** Less than .01% at 2V RMS BAL output. **Gain:** Main output, 12dB Balanced output, 6dB SE output. Record out: 0dB (Processor input: 0dB BAL output). **Noise:** 1.7uV RMS residual IHF weighted balanced equivalent input noise with volume at 1 (109dB below 2V RMS output). **Tube complement:** Six 6H30 dual triodes, plus one 6550WE and one 6H30 in power supply. **Dimensions:** Width:19" (48 cm), Height:7.8" (19.8 cm), Depth: 16.5" (41.9 cm). Handles extend 1.6" (4 cm) forward of the front panel. **Weight:** 37.5 lbs. (17 kg) Net; 49 lbs. (22.3 kg) Shipping.