

Esoteric A-03 Power Amplifier



**As you have never experienced it before,
the vivid colors of live music!**

The grandeur of a Stradivarius; the clarity of a Steinway. The original master tapes record each and every part of the music's essence, ranging from the fine flavor of individual sounds, or the beauty of a symphony when those sounds are richly blended, to the ambience of the concert hall and the enthusiasm of the audience.

There are many power amplifiers, but this is a £17,500 model which sells for £7,500. In other words, don't overlook it if you are upgrading from something much more expensive.

With typical honesty Esoteric advised me to put my hands back in my pocket when I wanted to order two A-03 to secure the authority and soundstage you get from monoblocks in general and bridged Class-A amp. They were right, although I still wonder... Fifty watts from the A-03 generates the most open, effortless soundstage combining fast transients and bass slam with natural, mellow, fully-fleshed sound as only Class-

Right from the carton, Esoteric has applied the insightful intelligence of a critical audiophile. Maybe they employed the lady from the Toyota advert? The inner carton actually dismantles around the amplifier so you can see the amp. And then the looks, the fit n' finish are way beyond the impression of photographs. Have you ever seen heat sinks machined to be organic ribbed dissipators of heat? And then we have the eco-friendly standby in a warm up button.

LEDs are not crude bulbs but halos surrounding buttons; and they do not toggle colours, they fade to indicate status; nothing so crude, either, as a click or a pop upon switching.

But all these refinements pale into insignificance as you begin after 30 minutes to appreciate the intelligence and effort which has resulted in a blending of art and emotion with electronics and engineering.

The A-03 is a masterpiece which reviewers should compare to amplifiers at any price point. I don't think you will find an amplifier better made. Sound, as always, depends on system synergy and personal taste. I : Mr Ohmachi has played a major role here therefore we get a product of profound experience and craftsmanship.

High-End Audio has become an obscene and materialist pursuit. Esoteric pursue great music as a cultural asset and a heritage. If you can tell the difference, the A-03 is the amplifier to aspire to owning. Ideal lead Esoteric series of sacd discs then move on to Esoteric's partners, Tannoy, if you understand the value of system synergy.

Review Links

"the Class-A 50W A03 stereo power amplifier (\$12,000) were sounding pretty special driving large Verity Audio speakers. Punchy, yet not forced, Dvorak's New World Symphony, filled the room with vivid, dynam

The A-03 is pure Class-A and completely dual mono. It sports two independent high capacity toroidal transformers, and current delivery of 24 amps (17 amps continuous. It's beautifully built. " - WesPhilips **Stereo** 2009 Show Report

"If you are looking for the vaunted qualities of class A amplification implemented without any concession and pushed to the limit, check out the Esoteric A-03. It's a real seducer". - 6moons audio - Frederic Beudot