

Reference 80S

Stereo Amplifier



audio research



The Reference 80S stereo amplifier continues Audio Research's latest design effort in creating a vacuum-tube amplifier that not only redefines ultimate music reproduction, but does it in an incredibly beautiful package.

The 80S was created for the music lover who does not require the output power of its larger siblings, the Reference 160S stereo and 160M mono amplifiers. The 80S continues the design ethos, including dual GhostMeters® that float in front of four KT150 output tubes. Extruded panels, a vital part of the all-aluminum chassis, provide rigidity and beauty.

Built by hand, from the ground-up in our Maple Grove, Minnesota facility, this is created in service of the music, bringing it to life in every sense of the word. Listening through the 80S is a compelling experience, never a mental exercise. Set up appropriately, the 80S can fool you into feeling you are in the presence of the musical performance: The finest details are heard, with rich harmonics and full dynamic contrasts—from the smallest whisper to the largest crescendo—showcased with the ambience of the original acoustic space. Whatever your reference speakers may be, the Reference 80S will elevate their performance to a new plateau.

SPECIFICATIONS

Power Output: 70 watts continuous from 20Hz to 20kHz. 1kHz total harmonic distortion typically 1% at 140 watts (33 watts in Triode mode) per channel, below 0.04% at 1 watt (Note that actual power output is dependent upon both line voltage and "condition" i.e.: if power line has high distortion, maximum power will be affected adversely, although from a listening standpoint this is not critical) **Power Bandwidth:** (-3dB Points) 7Hz to 68kHz. **Frequency Response:** (-3dB points at 1 watt) 0.7Hz to 94kHz. **Input Sensitivity:** 1.4V RMS Balanced for rated output. (25.5 dB gain into 8 ohms); 0.7V RMS SE for rated output. **Input Impedance:** 300k ohms Balanced; 75k ohms Single-ended. **Output Polarity:** Non-inverting. Balanced input pin 2+ (IEC-268). **Output Taps:** 16 ohms, 8 ohms, 4 ohms. **Output Regulation:** Approximately 1.0dB 16 Ohm load to open circuit (Damping factor approximately 8). **Overall Negative Feedback:** 15dB. **Slew Rate:** 10 volts/microsecond **Rise Time:** 4.0 microseconds. **Power Requirements:** 105-130VAC 60Hz (210-250VAC 50Hz) 420 watts at rated output, 280 watts in Triode mode, 221 watts at "idle", 3.6 watts off Units for Japan: 100VAC 50/60Hz **Tube Complement:** 2 matched pair KT150 (Power output V1-4); 2 6H30 (Gain stage V5 and V6). **Dimensions:** Width 18.5" (47 cm) chassis; 19.0" (48.26 cm) faceplate, Height 10.5" (26 cm), Depth 18.5" (47 cm). With Handles and Connectors: 21" (53.3 cm). **Weight:** 62 lbs. (28.2 kg) Net; 73 lbs. (32.7 kg) Shipping.