

power amplifier of the year David Berning Quadrature Z

Reviewed in issue 61

Running alongside the mainstream in audio design, there are some extremely bright individuals who build products more as a hobby than a business. David Berning is one such individual, and his Quadrature Z power amps show that he's very, very good at his hobby. But, don't imagine that means Berning is an amateur engineer; his 'real job' is in power device certification and safety,

so if anyone knows their way around a power amp, it's David Berning.

The output-transformer-less Quadrature Z is a 200W valve mono-bloc design, using Berning's patented zero-hysteresis circuit, while the name Quadrature is an elegant way to describe the interleaving of the impedance conversion process, designed to eliminate conversion dead time. What this means to people who don't speak Technical Geek is that the amplifier can drive relatively low-impedance loads (something an OTL design typically fails to do) and yet with the sheer transparency and openness of OTL,

and a sense of pace and dynamics that you may not find anywhere else in audio – "Simply because things can happen as quickly as they need to, suddenly the sense of the system tracking the demands of the signal disappears altogether, allowing the music to ebb and flow, race or dawdle as the players desire." In short, this is one of the best power amps to date.

Price: £22,500/pair

Manufactured by

The David Berning Company

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Distributed by Blade Audio

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Highly Commended

Pass Labs XA160.5

Reviewed in issue 65

Price: £22,000/pair

Manufactured by Pass Labs

Net: www.passlabs.com

Distributed by Select Audio

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Highly Commended Coda CSX

Reviewed in this issue

Price: £5,150

Manufactured by Coda

Technologies Inc:

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