

KRELL LAUNCHES NEW ILLUSION PREAMPLIFIERS

By TAS Staff | Mar 05th, 2014



ORANGE, CT, and NY, NY USA, March 4, 2014 - At the Luxury Technology Show in New York, NY, March 4, 2014, Krell introduces the Illusion and Illusion II preamplifiers. The Illusion preamplifier extends the Krell tradition of separating the power supply from the audio circuitry in their flagship preamplifiers. Sharing the new Class A iBias power amplifier aesthetic and featuring Krell CAST technology, the Illusion preamplifier is the ideal match for the new Solo 375 and Solo 575 power amplifiers. The Illusion II is Krell's high value solution that adds digital inputs and eschews the separate power supplies.

"Separate power supplies for our top preamplifiers has always been featured by Krell," Bill McKiegan, president of Krell Industries, said. "Now we've created a pair of preamplifiers for all audiophiles supporting the new esthetic established by the Foundation preamp processor and our new iBias amplifiers."

An optional crossover function offers the ability to use a subwoofer/satellite speaker arrangement and still maintain the highest quality sonic performance. Previous to the Illusion preamplifier, this system configuration would require signals to pass through a subwoofer's lower quality crossover circuitry. The Illusion preamplifier is the centerpiece of a world-class audio system where space is at a premium.

Crossover Highlights

Owing to Krell's work in the Modulari Duo Reference loudspeaker, the unique crossover feature is a highly sophisticated option. When the optional board is present, additional crossover menu items become available. Definable parameters include independently assignable crossover frequencies and filter types for the high and low pass sections. Choices include 40Hz, 55Hz, 75Hz, and 100Hz crossover points with 12dB, 24dB, and 48dB Butterworth or 24dB Linkwitz-Riley style filters. The high pass section of the crossover uses the full Illusion preamplifier circuitry for its output stage.

Circuitry Highlights

The Illusion preamplifier is a dual monaural circuit design with the left and right channels afforded by their own power supply regulation and individual full chassis sized boards. All signal gain is realized in surface

mount topology using proprietary multiple-output current mirrors with nearly 500 times the open loop linearity of other designs. 1.5 MHz open loop circuit bandwidth in a zero feedback, balanced, Krell Current Mode design terminates in Krell CAST. A complete Krell system (source, preamp, and amplifier) system, connected using CAST interconnects reduces the number of voltage gain stages to the minimum, one. The resulting noise floor approaches the theoretical limit of technology. Negative feedback is not used anywhere in the preamp, nor is it necessary. Open-loop distortion is typically less than 0.003%. The volume control is realized with a balanced resistor ladder - bandwidth and transient response of the preamp circuitry are virtually unaffected by the volume setting.



Power Supply Highlights

The Illusion audio circuits receive power from a Krell Current Mode analog power supply housed in its own dedicated chassis. The power supply avoids the common integrated circuit topology used in many preamplifiers and instead mimics the design topology of Krell Evolution Series amplifiers. The circuitry is completely discrete giving it the ability to respond quickly to current demands and also be unaffected by all but the most severe AC voltage power fluctuations. Oversized for a preamplifier, the power supply features a 290 VA transformer and 41,600 μ F of capacitance. Locating the power supply in its own chassis presents the ideal configuration for isolating stray electrical and magnetic interference from the critical preamplifier signal path. Capable of delivering current and voltage swing for any musical event, the Illusion power supply is gentle on AC requirements when not in use. A new eco-friendly design reduces standby power draw to 2W.

The Illusion II - Welcomes Digital Sources

The Illusion II is the perfect centerpiece for a world-class digital and analog audio system. Added to the normal selection of balanced and single-ended inputs are five digital inputs. The digital module features AES/EBU, coaxial, and optical digital inputs for use with streaming devices or other digital sources.

Digital Module Highlights

The digital module supports up to 24 bit/192kHz LPCM. All digital signals are fed to an ESS Sabre DAC and then sent to Krell's Current Mode, discrete, balanced analog circuitry.

Illusion II Power Supply Highlights

Oversized for a preamplifier, the power supply features a 95 VA transformer and 40,000 μ F of capacitance giving it the ability to respond quickly to musical demands. The large power supply improves noise rejection and renders the Illusion II impervious to all but the most severe AC voltage power fluctuations. A new eco-friendly standby mode reduces power consumption to 2W.

Pricing and Availability

The Illusion Preamplifiers will ship later this month. Here are the prices:

Model	Description	Price
Illusion	Stereo preamplifier with separate power supply	\$15,000
Illusion II	Stereo preamplifier with digital inputs	\$7,000

About Krell Industries

Founded in 1980, Krell Industries is the world's premier manufacturer of high performance audio and video equipment. Its amplifiers, preamplifiers, surround-sound processors, stream players and loudspeakers have won acclaim in countless reviews and among audiophiles worldwide. For more information, please visit www.krellonline.com or call 203-298-4020.