

Primare Pre30/A30.2 £2400

SOUND APART, THE great thing about Primare's components is that they look a lot more expensive than they are (yes, even at £1200 per box), thanks to solid, rigid casework and controls with a smoothness and precision that makes them a delight to use.

After a few hours' warm-up the amps show their not inconsiderable mettle with a spirited delivery of Primal Scream's *Evil Heat* disc, allowing the raw edges of the recording to shine through. It's similarly accomplished with Pearl Jam's *Riot Act* set, the guitars at the opening of *Get Right* roaring out of the speakers, and the acoustic scoring of *Thumbing My Way* sounding 'in the room' real, with Eddie Vedder's weary vocals gaining excellent presence. There's a raw, 'live' feel to this disc, and the way these amps deliver it is spot on.



“Presentation is natural and controlled but also fully able to make the walls shake”

The presentation is natural and controlled, but at the same time fully able to shake the walls when the recording and the ancillary equipment allows. Play Tori Amos's *Scarlet's Walk* album and the way the Primares place the singer's voice and piano centre-stage is glorious, with that almost tangible presence that sets fine stereo aside from mere 'hi-fi'.

The delicacy with which each vocal nuance is presented is refreshing – forcing the issue is more common with so many amplifiers – and while this may make some feel the Primares are understated, in fact they're just accurate, and a much more enjoyable listen long-term. Considering the price point we can't think of any more desirable alternatives.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

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| Inputs | Three |
| Tape loops | One |
| Headphone output | No |
| Tone controls | No |
| Power output | 120 watts per channel |
| Remote control | Yes |