



## Exposure

### XM5 integrated amplifier

Reviewed in Issue **158**

**E**xposure's half-width XM5 integrated amplifier claims to be a design for all seasons thanks to the inclusion of an onboard digital to analogue converter and a defeatable MM phono stage as one of its two analogue inputs. The 60W per channel amp sports a linear power supply with a 200VA toroidal transformer and features high quality components in the signal path right through to the Toshiba bipolar output transistors. While the case has the classic and solid minimalism that has long been a function of Exposure electronics, it's clear the company has spent money where it's best needed; on the quality of the amplifier circuit, not simply on the box it comes in.

In test, Jason Kennedy found the XM5 an able partner for the kind of loudspeakers one might couple to an amplifier as affordable as the XM5, feeling such partnerships, "provided good scale, plenty of energy, and decent levels of detail resolution". He was particularly fond of the phono stage; despite not being a habitual MM user, he found its "dense fine detail produces a strong sense of presence that almost puts the musician in the room." The XM5's size and 60W power output does make the amplifier ideal for smaller loudspeakers and smaller rooms, but he concluded, "get the speaker selection bit right and this Exposure should provide many moons of listening pleasure." +



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