



POWER AMPLIFIER OF THE YEAR

conrad-johnson ART300 Mono | Reviewed in Issue 173



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Flagship power amplifiers from conrad-johnson don't come around every day, but when they do, they more than deserve to be heard. The ART300 Mono power amplifiers are the new and latest powerhouse all-valve top-of-the-range from the evergreen Virginian company. It is the latest in a long line of highly rated power amps, dating back to the Premier One from 1981. As the name suggests, the ART300s deliver 300W per channel and do so thanks to two pairs of the new KT150 output tubes in each chassis. Just 125 pairs of the ART 300 Mono will be made, joining the ART27A and the ART150 stereo power amps as anniversary products for c-j's 40th year.

In our test, we felt that “what the ART300 excels at is the ‘unforced delivery’.” This does not mean ‘relaxed’ but more effortlessly natural sounding. We also said that, “music is neither strained nor constrained in passing through the ART300 amps, and in listening to this wonderful amplifier group, you quickly realise just how rare that quality is in audio.” The ART300 Mono sets new standards in imaging properties, both in terms of soundstage size and solidity of image, but it also ‘times’ in an extremely natural manner. All of which make for a power amplifier that is mature in its approach and demands an equally mature outlook in its listeners. If you simply want audio fireworks, you might miss out on the music. The conrad-johnson ART300 Mono makes music!