



conrad-johnson ART108A

WINNER
VALVE POWER AMPLIFIER

Conrad-johnson's Triode Mono ART108A monoblocks build upon the delightful ART27A stereo amplifier. But where that amplifier uses a single pair of KT88s to yield 36W of Class A triode power, the ART108A uses four pairs of the same Genelex Gold Lion KT88 output valves configured as triode devices, meaning a pair of ART108A mono delivers an impressive 160 Watts of triode sound. This perhaps represents the ideal balance between sheer power output and delightful triode sound quality so beloved by many modern audio enthusiasts and music lovers. The company should also be applauded for preferring to use the more tried and trusted KT88 power tube over more fashionable designs like the KT150. It's clear that conrad-johnson is sticking to its guns here, and the result is an outstanding performance.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt that the conrad-johnson ART108A mono power amps, "deliver the scale and slam needed to drive big high-performance tower loudspeakers to 'fun' levels while retaining much of the grace, speed and precision of the smaller stereo amplifier. The conjoining of those two hitherto disparate elements is uncanny."

Alan concluded the review by saying, "The conrad-johnson ART108A amps are capable of making you listen to your recordings as if they were new to you. In absolute terms, no 'hollow-state' power amplifier can fully compete with the detail extraction and sheer grip the very best solid-state amps can impart on the sound, but similarly no solid-state amp can deliver the grace, richness and refinement on offer here."

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Manufacturer • conradjohnson.com

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