



Mono Power Amplifier C15: Class A

Although it employs a custom-specified version of the popular Hypex class-D amplifier module, the Corona C15 monoblock, which offers 280W into 8 ohms, 520W into 4 ohms, is, according to its designer, a “Linear Analog Switching Amplifier,” the overall design concept of which entails the use of a linear rather than switch-mode power supply—itsself built around a toroidal transformer with generous mu-metal shielding. (The latter is presumed to contribute to the amp’s 48.5lb weight.) Indeed, in his measurements, JA confirmed that “the C15’s transfer function appears to remain relatively consistent with both frequency and output current”; also unusual for a class-D amp was the C15’s admirable output-impedance behavior: JA discovered that its low-pass function into loads of 4 and 2 ohms was “very similar to its 8 ohm behavior.” In his listening tests, JA found that the C15’s “intrinsic character was all about control, especially the tight control of low frequencies”—a quality that served well the amp’s pairing with the somewhat rich-sounding woofer alignment of the Vivid Giya G3 speaker, but less so the Joseph Audio Perspective, with which the MBL sounded clean but lean. Especially when combined with the classic Rogers LS3/5a, JA observed “superb imaging definition and stability” with the good-looking MBL amps. (Vol.37 No.6 WWW)

\$20,000 / pair