PREAMPLIFIER OF THE YEAR

Lamm Industries L2.1 Reference
$22,790

The L2.1 Reference linestage preamplifier is one of those exceptional products that measures well and manages to sound terrific at the same time. As with other Lamm products, it was designed within the conceptual framework that Vladimir Lamm refers to as "absolute system linearity," a framework he feels is predictive of good sound. The L2.1 Reference is a hybrid design but not in the usual sense. The power supply is all tube while the audio circuit is solid-state. MOSFETs are used in Class A no-feedback circuitry for the gain and buffer stages. Sonically, the L2.1 is clearly deserving of the "Reference" appellation, holding up, as it does, a mirror to the music. It cuts through previous limitations of solid-state preamplification allowing the music to flow with precision and emotional conviction. "It's no secret," said reviewer Dick Olsher, "that the L2.1 is currently my first choice in line preamplification." And now it's no secret that the Lamm Industries L2.1 Reference is TAS' choice for 2017 Preamplifier of the Year.