

HI-FI CHOICE

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Date Printed: 16 June 2005

Rega Brio Stereo Integrated Amp



An amplifier for those who like to hear good music with stylish twist

Rega sure has been burning the midnight oil recently. A whole host of new products has got us excited here at Hi-Fi Choice, and catching our eye this month is the Brio 2000 integrated amplifier, which is looking particularly fresh-faced. It would appear that the original Brio has been under the surgeon's knife, and is now sporting an all-new stylish aluminium case. Rega feels that after many years the time has come for an overhaul, and although the machine adopts some significant internal and external changes, the product's character and design direction remain the same. The concave upper casework and sparsely decorated front panel make for a very individual look. Sparseness continues at the rear, with two pairs of speaker outputs, five line inputs, and one tape loop. The tidy lack of tone controls, balance etc, may appeal depending on your outlook. Rega is clearly quietly confident.

Fat rubber feet support this machine, helping isolate the electronics within. This new circuitry includes an improved output stage thanks to claimed higher grade transistors and new protection electronics. Preamplification has been improved too, with new capacitors in the signal path.

Rega's new integrated pumps out a likeable warm bass, albeit one that perhaps could extend a little more. The midband excels, with vocals and percussion appealingly open, if a little forward. Laid-back partnering speakers will bring the most smiles with this machine, if smoothness is your bag at least. The Brio's revealing nature offers a pleasing insight into the music and Rega really has put some effort into re-designing the product. If style is an issue for you, but you still like to hear what's going on in your music, have a listen to the new Brio amplifier.

FEATURES

RATED 38 Watts into 8 Ohms; four line inputs; tape loop; two pairs of speaker outputs

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