

**SOLID-
STATE AMP
OF THE
YEAR**



Pass Labs XA100.5

\$16,500

This 100W pure Class A monoblock is the culmination of designer Nelson Pass' decades of research into amplifier design. Employing the latest versions of his Super-Symmetry and Aleph circuits, the XA100.5 is the ultimate realization of those innovations. The direct signal path has just two gain stages, with the output stage realized with a whopping 40 matched output transistors per channel. Pure Class A output power has always had a certain magic, but the XA100.5 takes the sweetness and immediacy of Class A to a new level. The XA100.5 is extraordinarily smooth, liquid, warm, and musically involving. It achieves this liquidity not by glossing over solid-state hardness, but by reducing those artifacts to inaudibility. The XA100.5 is also a dynamic powerhouse, delivering massive dynamic swings with utter ease and grace. One of the handful of the best power amplifiers RH has heard, the XA100.5 is a shoe-in for Solid-State Power Amplifier of the Year honors. (Reviewed by RH in Issue 185)