

► jack, switchable to single ended RCAs, both these inputs can be set for nominal one, or two volt input sensitivity. A single set of practical binding posts are provided for loudspeaker output, crucially coloured blue and red: being a bridged design, it is important to remember that neither side of the loudspeaker is earthed. Mains input is via a standard IEC connection, and there is a remote

neat, with minimal wiring, and Bryston make a point of the fact that the boards are hand soldered to avoid exposing them to the thermal shock that a flow soldering machine would inflict. This, they feel would compromise reliability. That is important if you are going to offer a twenty-year guarantee.

during which time (under quiescent conditions) the heat sinks become slightly warm to the touch. While they are not class A amplifiers, each unit will draw 215 Watts from the wall at idle, and running at full power this elevates to nearly 2 kilowatts (!), so I was glad to have recently replaced wall sockets and wiring in my listening room. But all this talk of extreme levels of power is creating the wrong impression. The 7Bs do not immediately impress. Or at least,

not in the way that you might expect; there is no sense of a big muscle bound amplifier straining at the leash or waiting to erupt and bombast you with vast slabs of noise. To put it another way, it is not afflicted with the sort of clumsy 'heaviness' that seems to come with the territory of so many powerful amplifiers. It sounds light, open and airy...and

dark. Before you

condemn me for spouting complete bulls***t, let me explain. The sound of the Bryston is not bogged down by a thick glutinous quality; it is remarkably fast and tactile, aided and abetted by a lack of smearing or coloration of any sort, hence light of touch. It is possible to be mildly disappointed by the fact that on first acquaintance there is nothing in the sound quality that hints at the tremen-dous reserves of power available, in fact, the 7B sounds a little lightweight in the bass...And then it hits you. The effect is like adding another octave of bass extension to your loudspeakers, ►



power up option, requiring the application of 4 – 12 volts. The power switch is actually a breaker that will trip in the case of severe overload (although quite what constitutes that, I don't know) and it should be noted that the amplifier is not powered up in any way until the front panel control is activated. Internally, construction is supremely

Sixteen hand selected bi-polar complementary output transistors are fed from discreet circuitry (the company does not favour IC's) and a massive power supply, which from memory has slightly more reservoir capacitance than the 14B.

Uh oh, there goes the neighbourhood...

The 7B sounds pretty lousy until it has had 20 minutes or so to warm up;