

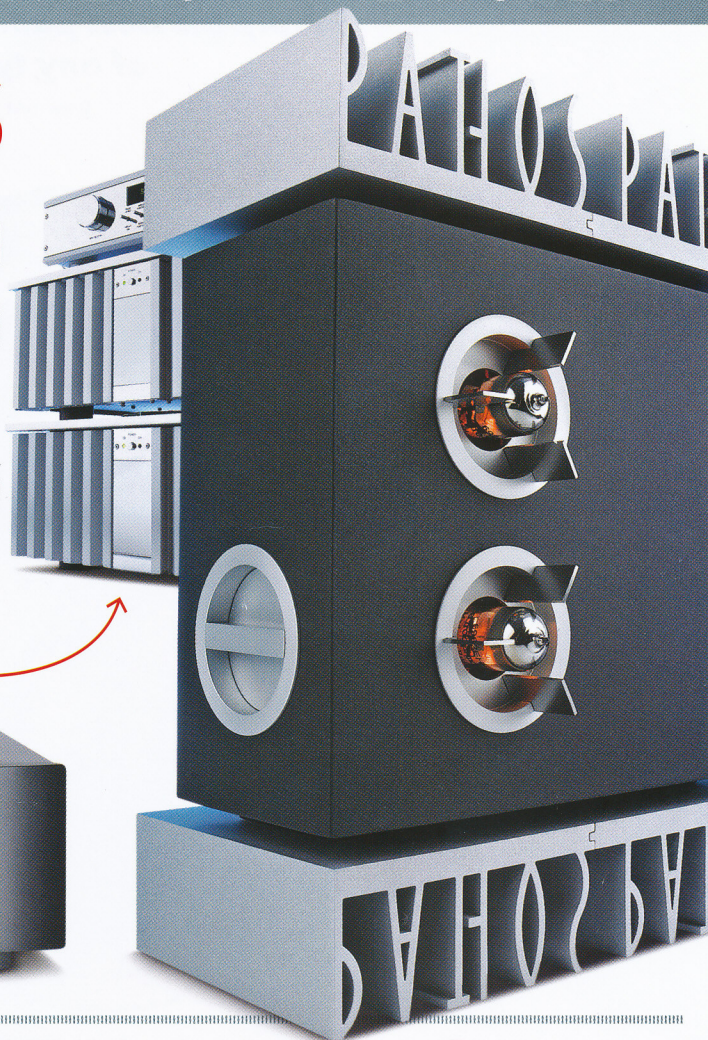
WHAT HI-FI?

SOUND AND VISION

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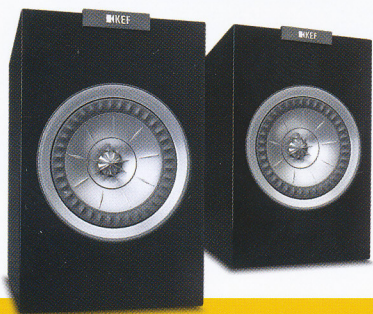
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Design genius

Pathos InpolRemix £3800

Pathos isn't one for traditional design, but the aesthetically intriguing InpolRemix delivers the kind of sound purists will love.

Insight and organisation are breathtaking, especially when combined with Pathos's usual sweet but still convincing tonal balance. While it lacks outright scale with its modest 10W per channel output, it gets the basics right - timing and dynamics are immaculately handled without sounding overly controlled. There's bags of detail, yet also

an agility and tautness that most of those more-than-capable rivals can't match.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR A sweet, insightful and fluid sound; organised character; stunning appearance

AGAINST Low power output means careful speaker matching is a must

VERDICT Not cheap or powerful, but the InpolRemix is a truly brilliant performer

Hybrid monobloc powerhouse

Pathos Adrenalin £32,000 (per pair)

Can any piece of hi-fi be worth £32,000?

After all, despite the masses of heat sinking, sturdy build and clever valve/transistor hybrid circuitry, there's nothing hugely exotic about the ingredients used in the Pathos Adrenalin monoblocs.

Hear them in a suitably talented system though, and the Adrenalins soon beguile. They sound absolutely astonishing.

Feed the Adrenalin the kind of material that normally has amplifiers struggling - in our case, *The Dark Knight OST* with its massive dynamic swings and subterranean basslines - and these monoblocs deliver everything with complete composure, perfect control and an almost disturbing amount of ease. They never struggle.

Extended dynamic ability

The incredible thing about these amps is that all that control isn't at the expense of musical excitement. Some products sound exciting, or smooth, or refined. These simply sound like the recording.

While acoustic scale is as impressive as we've heard in our system, small-scale recordings such as Bonnie Prince Billie's *I See A Darkness* remain just as intimate as they should be - that's a neat balancing act.

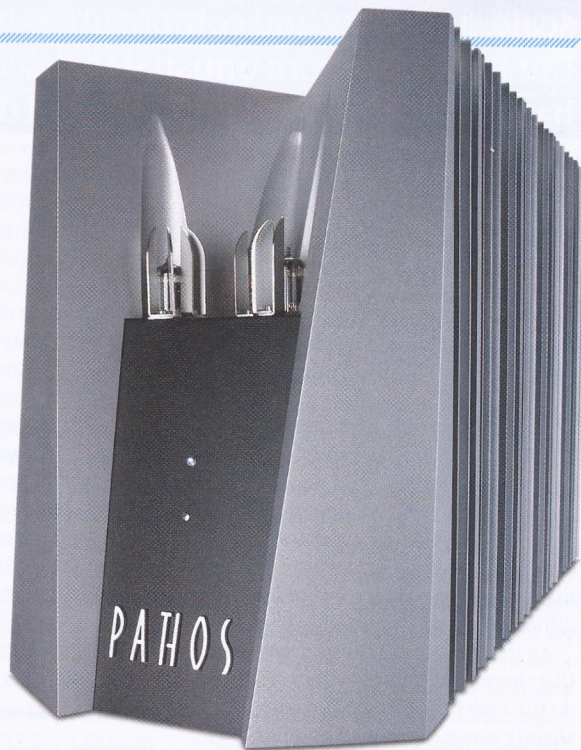
And there's no sacrifice of finesse, either. The Pathos sounds beautifully natural and subtle when the music demands. With superb recordings such as *White Chalk* by PJ Harvey or Arvo Pärt's *Litany*, the lack of artifice and the delicacy are arguably as good as we've heard. Furthermore, timing, tonal balance and speed are as good as they need to be.

It's worth mentioning that there are practical considerations to be aware of.

Hear them in a suitably talented system, and the Adrenalins beguile. They sound astonishing

These monoblocs are large (standing 44cm tall by 68cm deep) and heavy (a vertebra-straining 70kg), so you'll need at least two people to move them. The Class A circuitry means they run very hot, too.

Musically, the Pathos Adrenalins are brilliant. These amps cost a huge amount of money, but in the right system they unequivocally sound worth it. And that's the highest compliment we can give



That radical, arresting design suggests real distinction. And that's exactly what you get

Rating ★★★★★

FOR An astonishing sonic performance that excels in all areas; superb build and finish

AGAINST The price puts it well out of the reach of most; runs hot; large and bulky

VERDICT They sound as magical as you'd hope. If well matched, they're worth every penny