



XA200

XA160

XA100

XA60

XA30

Over the years Pass has produced some truly great amplifiers, each design unique in some way. The XA power amplifiers offer the marriage of two classic examples of these designs - the Aleph single-ended Class A output stage and the X Super-Symmetric front end circuit. Each of these designs is covered by basic patents and stands alone in defining Nelson Pass's simple but powerful approach to amplifier design. Together, the two topologies complement each other in a way that represents a near perfect synergy, resulting in the newest, highest standard in audio amplification.

XA amplifiers

Compared to the X series, the XA amplifiers have more emphasis on audio perfection over power. Dissipating the same power at idle, the XA series trades efficiency for the warmer midrange, sweeter top end, and better defined bass of a pure Class A amplifier. If you need raw power and very high current into a low impedance load, an X amplifier is the appropriate choice. If the purest quality into a reasonable loudspeaker is your choice, you want an XA model.

The XA series amplifiers run pure balanced single-ended Class A with an

enormous bias current - they do not fall back on Class AB operation. This extraordinarily over-the-top Class A is responsible for an effortless three-dimensional presentation of the sonic landscape. This in combination with exceptional resolution of minute detail and dynamic contrast creates the illusion that through these amplifiers you could touch the performers, as if the last veil was removed, but without a trace of glare or harshness.

The XA's retain the sweet warmth and lushness of the Aleph series without fluffy coloration, and the dynamic contrast is



XA200

Mono design
 200 watts
 Gain: 26dB
 +/- 60V Max
 +/- 9A Max
 19W x 11.5H x 28D
 175LBS

XA160

Mono design
 160 watts
 Gain: 26dB
 +/- 50V Max
 +/- 7A Max
 19W x 11.5H x 22D
 150LBS

XA100

Mono design

100 watts

Gain: 26dB

+/- 20V Max

+/- 5A Max

19W x 9.5H x 22D

100LBS



even better than the X series - transients leap from black to crescendo and back again with no telegraphing or hangover. There is as much bottom end control as the original X amps, but carries more subtle nuance. The midrange is a little deeper and the soundstage wider than the either the Aleph or the X amplifiers alone.

The XA's sleek industrial design is a stunning understatement of artistic form and function - an appropriate temple for the best amplifiers that money can buy.

XA60

Mono design

60 watts

Gain: 26dB

19W x 7H x 20D

70LBS



There are four different XA mono-block amplifiers, plus one stereo power amplifier, with power levels ranging from 60 to 200 watts in the mono-block units and 30 watts per channel in the stereo version.

These power ratings are specified into 8 ohms of impedance. Single-ended Class A output stages are biased to a particular impedance, and they do not increase in power at lower impedances, unlike conventional amplifiers. They do, however, perform well at any impedance, and are reliable into a dead short.

The XA series amplifiers all have massive toroidal transformers and high speed/soft recovery rectifiers coupled to four high capacity DC reservoirs with passive CRC or CLC filters to remove incoming and outgoing ripple. The AC line connection has EMI, spike, and inrush-surge conditioning to remove noise from the outside world and prevent the amplifier from sending noise out.

As a breed, exotic single-ended Class A amplifiers with only two stages and almost no feedback are known for wonderful sound, but not for particularly good objective specifications. There is a



XA30

Stereo design

30 watts/ch

Gain: 26dB

19W x 7H x 20D

70LBS

common belief that good sound does not correlate well with measured performance, but at Pass Labs we do not see a conflict - the question is not whether the amplifier measures good, but the approach the manufacturer has used to achieve that.

The XA series excels on bench tests, with measurements as good or better than amplifiers with 9 gain stages in series and tons of feedback, but does so with the ease and stability of a simple 2 stage device with minimal feedback that naturally combines high power and subtle precision.

For amplifiers drawing as much as 700 watts, they possess a remarkably low output noise at about 10 nanowatts, a figure less than 1 part in 10 billion compared to the output power.

The bandwidth is more than 5 times the audio spectrum at each end, and the maximum speed of the circuit is about 100 times that of the output of a digital or vinyl source.

The low distortion character is monotonic, with low order harmonics declining with power until they disappear beneath the waves of the 2 microvolt random noise floor.

Specifications only tell a small part of the story. If you are looking for a musical experience that brings you as close to the performance as possible, the XA series from Pass Labs is as good as you can get.

Other companies make products that compare in one respect or another, but nobody else delivers this level of sound, design, hardware, reputation, reliability and service in a single product.