



Accustic Arts TUBE PREAMP V

WINNER
PREAMPLIFIER

Accustic Arts TUBE PREAMP V is a hybrid design, utilising four ECC83S tubes. The 16kg preamp has two knobs to service the requirements of the amp; the left one controls the input as shown on the Hi-Res screen; you press it to switch it off, select the active input or drill down the menu. The right-hand knob controls volume, the mute function or the ability to switch off the tubes to extend their lifetime. The circuit design is fully balanced, with a Class A output stage. There are three balanced XLR inputs, three unbalanced RCA inputs, a surround bypass input, two fully balanced outputs, and two unbalanced outputs. These can be configured to be AC or DC coupled. A button on the front panel activates the headphone amplifier section and cuts off the speakers. Finally, a remote handset adds additional functionality.

Impeccable performance

Used with the AMP IV power amplifier from the same company, the two devices performed impeccably together. In our test, Rafael Todes praised the amps resolution, saying, “There is something very honest about what the combination is doing. It is very accurate and provides more stygian bass than I usually hear.” He was particularly impressed by the headphone output, saying its “up there with the best headphone amps I have heard. The timing of the bass is excellent, the colours warm and generous, and it is clear that the headphone section is no afterthought; it has been designed and built with the same care as the rest of the preamp.”

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ACCUSTIC ARTS Audio GmbH

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