



**AUDIO  
FILE**

Integrated valve amplifier. Rated at 25W  
Made by: Quad Electroacoustics Ltd  
Supplied by: Quad Electroacoustics Ltd  
Telephone: 01480 447700  
Web: www.quad-hifi.co.uk



## Quad II Classic Integrated (£4500)

Anyone familiar either with vintage Quads or recent models in the Classic range would tell you that they got it as 'right' as Fiat did with the new 500. The Quad II Classic Integrated is unmistakably 'Quad', its first integrated amp and one that seems to have grown organically.

It comes with three line inputs, full tape monitoring and a proper phono section offering switchable

speakers not normally attached to a mere £4500's worth of amplification: Wilson Sophia 2s. The system was up-and-running in ten minutes, exactly as Quad (and Tim) wanted. But we left it playing for an entire day before listening.



### POISE AND POWER

How on earth Tim de Paravicini has managed to voice this amplifier to deliver such silkiness we cannot imagine. But that quality, that poise, contradicts what will invariably turn out to be the Quad's biggest selling point as regards its performance: this

amp is so powerful that it almost counters its own delicacy and sophistication. It rocks, it glides, it shimmies, it pounds...

Does it not excite you to think that you can feed an amplifier, first, a CD of remastered Led Zeppelin, followed by an LP of vintage Streisand, then a glossy C&W epic from George Strait, and all will sound delightful? With vinyl it's

both quiet and widely dynamic, and the Ortofon 2M Blue loved it. With Koetsu and Transfiguration moving-coils, the extreme treble was slightly soft though. The acoustic space of the Cowboy Junkies' *Trinity Sessions* was open and airy in a way we could not have anticipated.

Another quality manifested itself vividly while listening to a young Rod Stewart working his magic on 'Ol' Man River'. Voices can challenge a system the way a piano does: the textures, the tics, are paramount in recreating a convincing sonic experience. The Quad showcased his voice, including his odd bursts of falsetto, against the churning rhythm section of Mickey Waller and pre-Stones Ron Wood.

Our first taste of truly 'three-dimensional' sound involved the Byrds' *Ballad Of Easy Rider* LP. It was the track 'Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins' and the way the spacecraft launch appeared to rise above the speakers and through the ceiling that taught us in an instant about image height. Uncannily, the Quad does that with both vertical information and off-stage sounds, to the outside of the speakers.

If peerless soundstage portrayal is among the Quad's most vivid qualities, it follows then that tonal balance must be close to spot-on as well. Here, too, the Quad proved itself again and again.

### VERDICT

If there is anything unexpected here, it's the palpable 'real-world' power. Tim de Paravicini squeezed out as much grunt as a brace of KT66s-per-side can deliver, without altering the warm, seductive character of a circuit nearly eligible for its bus pass. It's a triumph! ☺

'The Quad Integrated is so powerful it almost counters its own delicacy'

MM and MC settings. Designer Tim de Paravicini has managed not only to fit all this into a compact, stylish package, he's also upped the power: 'The output valves are run more conservatively, yet it produces a genuine 25W/ch. It gets loud without going to pieces'.

Given that the amp oozed robustness, we had no qualms about connecting it to the sort of

**ABOVE:** Apart from some solid-state circuitry in the MM/MC phono stage, for quietness this model is all-tube. Maintaining its purity, the Quad II Integrated uses four KT66s fed by four ECC88s and two ECC83s. It was designed, says de Paravicini, 'to kick arse'

### HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Power output (<1% THD, 8/4ohm)      | 32W / 21W            |
| Dynamic power (<1% THD, 8/4/2/1ohm) | 33W / 23W / 13W / 8W |
| Output impedance (20Hz-20kHz)       | 0.165-0.265ohm       |
| Frequency response (20Hz-100kHz)    | +0.04dB to -18.6dB   |
| Input sensitivity (for 0dBW/25W)    | 54mV / 273mV         |
| A-wtd S/N ratio (re. 0dBW/25W)      | 88.9dB / 102.8dB     |
| Distortion (20Hz-20kHz, 10W)        | 0.023-0.30%          |
| Power consumption (Idle/Rated o/p)  | 163W/175W            |
| Dimensions (WHD)                    | 310x200x380mm        |