



Preamplifier N11: Class A

This beautiful, multiple-input, multiple-output line preamplifier can be used in its Unity Gain mode for maximum sound quality or with a higher-gain setting. JVS found that the N11 in its higher-gain mode “brought out the warm core of every note,” adding that it enabled him to hear “the subtle differences of interpretation, dynamics, and color that are the portals to the truth behind the notes.” He found that Unity Gain moved the soundstage farther back in his system with his D/A processors. While perspective was clarified, this mode made the sound less open with slightly reduced transparency and bass. Ultimately, he felt that the N11’s Unity Gain “toned down the noisy top ends of some recordings, making for easier listening.” The N11’s measurements revealed extraordinarily low noise and distortion, especially in Unity Gain mode. However, the CD input’s unbalanced impedance of 2.3k ohms will tax sources with a tubed output stage. Those can be used with the balanced inputs or the unbalanced Aux inputs, which have impedances of 10k and 47k ohms, respectively. To his surprise, JA found that inserting the N11 between his DAC and power amplifiers resulted in a more palpable presentation, with a deeper soundstage. (Vol.43 Nos.7, 11 & 12, Vol.44 No.3 WWW)

\$14,600