

2006 Product of the Year Awards

Integrated Amplifiers of the Year



Cambridge Azur 540A v2
\$439
audioplusservices.com

Who would have guessed that this unassuming 60Wpc British-designed and Chinese-made integrated amplifier could be so wonderfully musical? We usually associate \$439 integrated amplifiers with a brittle treble, glassy midrange, and anemic bass. Not the Cambridge. This integrated has a tube-like liquidity in the mids, a smooth and unfatiguing treble, and surprising bass weight and depth. It even drives the mighty Wilson MAXX 2 loudspeakers with aplomb to moderate-to-high playback levels. The 540A's large power transformer and generous heatsinks allow the amplifier to sound more powerful than its 60Wpc rating (it can deliver 90Wpc into 4 ohms). The Cambridge's high-end design and parts-quality were easily audible, adding up to an engaging musicality that belied the 540A's price. Throw in a slew of speaker and amplifier protection features, minimalist circuitry, and a wonderful remote control, and you've got a slam-dunk for the first of *The Absolute Sound's* Integrated Amplifier of the Year Awards. (Reviewed by RH, Issue 162)

The Absolute Sound January 2007