



Allnic Audio HPA-5000XL

WINNER
PERSONAL AUDIO ELECTRONICS

Allnic Audio's range of valve-based audio electronics has long extended to some very nice headphone amplifiers, but that doesn't prepare the listener for the quality of the HPA-5000XL. Using an OTL (output transformerless) and OCL (output capacitorless) circuit, the balanced and single-ended inputs and outputs of this delightful headphone amplifier are perfectly matched by a sumptuous build quality.

"It's slightly difficult for those not used to OTL amps to understand exactly how they sound," said Alan Sircom, "but the HPA-5000XL sets new standards for immediacy and intimacy. Couple the amp with a set of fast-reacting dynamic or planar-magnetic headphones and the sound is almost psychic. It reacts to music as fast as the musician can produce it." Alan also remarked that "The HPA-5000XL is effortlessly relaxing to

a degree that few other devices achieve, almost irrespective of cost. Relaxing is not a codeword here; the amplifier isn't 'laid-back' or 'boring'; if anything, the presentation is slightly forward and clean. However, it's a kind of active relaxation... and when you listen to music through the HPA-5000XL you realise that's not an oxymoron."

Alan continued, "The Allnic rarely puts a foot wrong, whatever the music. It is dynamic and exciting when called for, the sound is very much outside of the headphones." He also noted that, "the bass is striking in its depth and precision, vocal articulation and fine detail were first rate."

He ended the review by saying, "It's hard not to love the Allnic HPA-5000XL. It's a great looking headphone amplifier that sounds excellent on everything you put its way. It's deceptively powerful and dynamic sounding too."

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