



THE
GRYPHON



The Gryphon Wall of Fame

The Gryphon collection of awards over 29 years is extensive, far beyond what we can present here. Each and every one of them bears witness to the dedication and commitment of all Gryphon distributors.

Trade shows and the world audio press have been generous in their praise of the Gryphon throughout the brand's first quarter of a century with a significant number of "Year's Best" and "Best in Show" awards.

Gryphon's collection of trophies, plaques, diplomas and certificates are on proud display on the Wall of Fame at the company's head offices.

Here is a small selection of the many honours bestowed upon the company.



What's in a Name?

It can be said that a brand name is a promise and a commitment. It is the fulfilment of expectations that the brand over the years has inspired among its clients.

For 29 years, Gryphon Audio Designs have developed, delivered and supported a range of products defined by a unique dedication and devotion to true musical performance, stunning industrial design and build quality. We only make products that we would personally be proud to own.

Gryphon never "go with the flow." Our new products are not made to meet a perceived demand based on market statistics and "consumer preferences" or the tech hype of the month. It has never been our intention to be first with the latest and thereby force the consumer to be part of the "experiment." We would much rather enter the scene when we can provide a product that is worthy to be called "the best," instead of scrambling to be the first to enter and the first to go.

The very successful Kalliope D/A converter is just such a product, cutting edge performance and mature technology with an open gateway to the future already built-in, everything that an owner rightfully can expect – a promise fulfilled.

This year's catalogue proudly presents three new products.

The Antileon EVO bears in its DNA a direct lineage from the archetypal Gryphon true Class A amplifiers, DM100, Antileon and Antileon Signature, an evolutionary progression demonstrated in this latest version of the most famous Gryphon amplifier at all time.

The Pantheon loudspeaker replaces the popular Atlantis, drawing on extensive experience acquired during the development of the Trident II

that took so many shows by storm since its introduction. The Pantheon has been a long time coming, but it was a profound delight to design and voice. Its soundstage and spatial qualities are so special and its inherent musicality makes you reach out for one recording after the other.

Isn't that what it is all about?

The Masterline speaker cable is the first in a new range of cables, inspired by the reference VIP Series. We are frighteningly close. At Gryphon, we do not believe in the idea of synergy, each and every one of our products can stand on its own, including this exciting new cable.

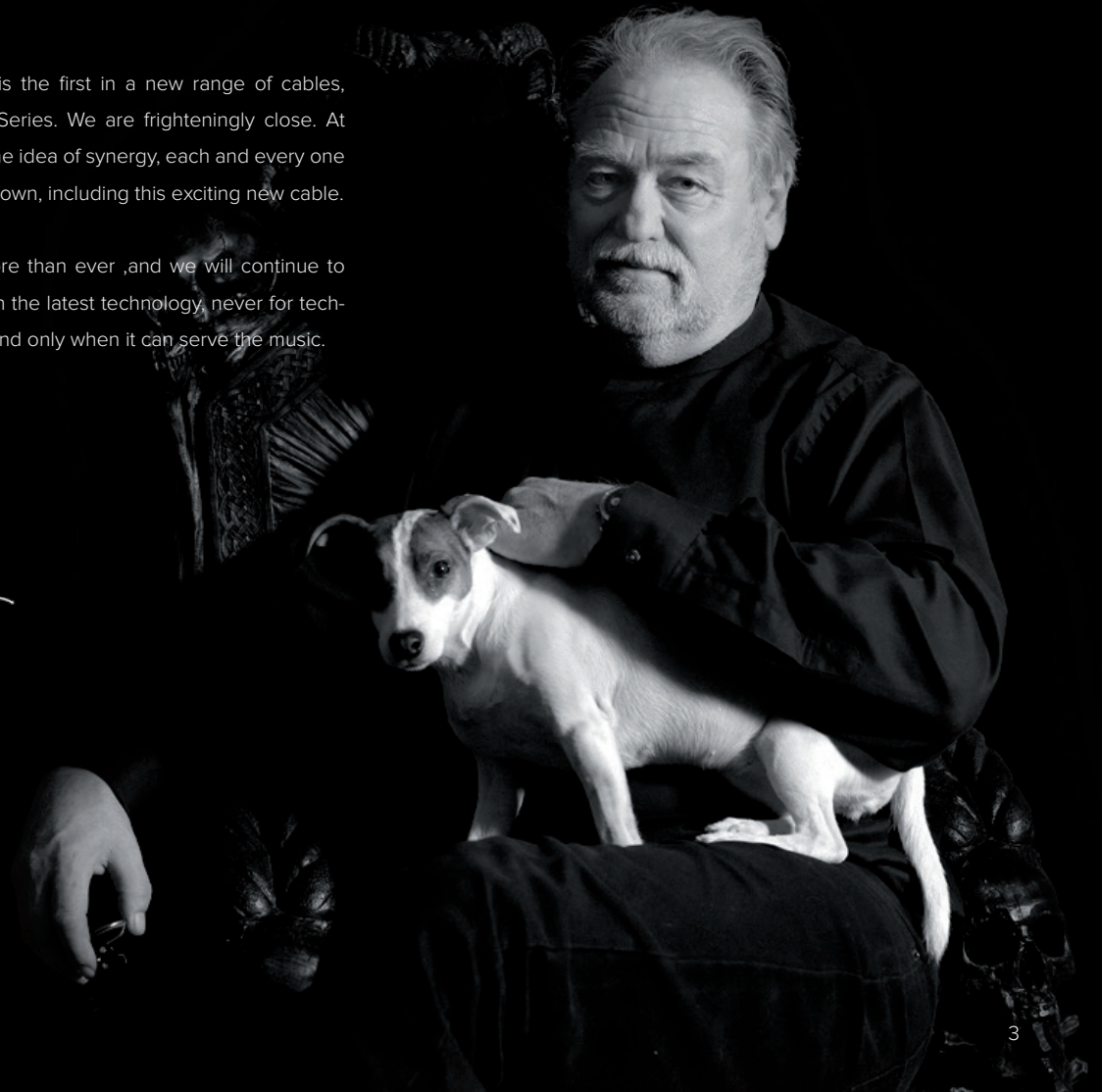
We enjoy what we do, now more than ever, and we will continue to develop new products based on the latest technology, never for technology's own sake, but always and only when it can serve the music.

And that's a promise.



Flemming E. Rasmussen
CEO & Founder
Gryphon Audio Designs

Ry, Denmark, April 2014



Gryphon Mephisto Solo

Monoblock Power Amplifier



THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE...

Or maybe they just meant that it shouldn't be done in a prevailing climate of global financial meltdown. In either case, anyone even remotely familiar with the workings of the mind of Gryphon founder and CEO Flemming E. Rasmussen knows that this is exactly the kind of challenge on which he thrives.

While other High End manufacturers are quietly closing up shop or reluctantly downsizing their ambitions in concession to an increasingly gadgetised and commodified audio market, Gryphon Audio Designs boldly and proudly offers the world the most advanced and, yes, most costly amplification components in the brand's history.

The Pandora preamplifier and Mephisto stereo power amplifier bravely bucked current trends of austerity and restraint, opening up new dimensions in home entertainment for the serious music lover. Designed and built for the select few who can appreciate and afford this level of uncompromising musicality, the Pandora/Mephisto system announced to the world in no uncertain terms that Gryphon continues to stand by the commitment to ultimate fidelity in home audio that is the foundation of the company's worldwide reputation.

The Next Step?

Of course, being Gryphon aficionados and, therefore, by definition, connoisseurs of the finer things in life, Gryphon owners immediately began speculating about what the next step might be for Rasmussen and his adventurous band of engineers and audiophiles. Nothing exceeds like excess, as an old saying goes.

Now, for the most demanding among the fortunate few who make up the Gryphon audience, for that limited circle able and willing to travel with us all the way on our journey, Gryphon presents the Gryphon Mephisto Solo single-channel power amplifier.

While monoblock construction is not unheard of in the High End, most often manufacturers take the easy way out, by simply creating a bridged version of an existing two-channel product. Bridging couples the stereo channels in series to form a single amplifier with increased voltage and, nominally, more output power. Unfortunately, the inevitable side effects of this approach include doubling distortion, doubling the input impedance (impairing the amplifier's ability to drive low-impedance loudspeaker loads) and cutting damping factor in half (reducing the amplifier's control of cone motion at low frequencies).

The Gryphon Mephisto Solo elegantly eliminates these issues by running two stereo channels in parallel (not in series) for unchanged output and voltage, but double the current and half the distortion. As always, extreme high current capability is a fundamental parameter in Gryphon amplifier design.

Capable of massive current swings, Gryphon Mephisto Solo maintains the dynamic integrity of the audio signal even under the most extreme reactive loudspeaker load conditions. The extraordinary load tolerance of the Mephisto Solo means that it will bring out the best in any loudspeaker.

Isolating power amplifier channels in completely independent enclosures offers additional crucial advantages. With separate power supplies, rectifiers, regulation, preamp stages and gain stages, there is no interaction whatsoever between channels. What happens in one channel at any given time (for instance, extreme instantaneous dynamic demands) is entirely independent of and therefore unaffected by anything going on in the other channel.

Total physical separation of the channels eliminates any possibility of inter-channel crosstalk, providing infinite stereo separation. As a result, the Gryphon Mephisto Solo drives

loudspeakers with greater ease, control and authority, delivering a more spacious soundstage in all dimensions, rich detail against a silent background and tighter, more extended bass. Less critically, independent mono amplifiers offer increased flexibility of placement in the listening room.

The quality of sound reproduced by Gryphon Mephisto Solo is completely level-independent. It is a huge amplifier capable of delivering its best at any volume setting, from background levels to full throttle.

A Peek beneath the Hood

To generate and control such pure power, Gryphon Mephisto Solo employs custom designed Holmgren transformers with generous filtering capacity for high pulse current. The fully regulated gain stage power supply ensures long-term reliability and safety. The carefully regulated and filtered power supply removes harmful high-frequency noise and voltage spikes without compromising current capacity. The complete removal of mains noise enhances focus, immediacy, transient crispness and soundstage depth.

Gryphon Mephisto Solo is designed with zero global negative feedback in order to meet the dynamic demands of the very best analogue and digital source components. Exceptional bandwidth – beyond 350 MHz – is achieved despite the total elimination of feedback.

Only the finest components are employed throughout for optimal electrical and audio characteristics. The voltage amplification stage incorporates high-speed Zetex surface mount transistors with minimal capacitance and high DC current gain (Hfe) and the output stage employs high-speed Toshiba pre-driver transistors.

A fully symmetrical, regulated low noise voltage supply has been used for all voltage amplification sections. For each monoblock, eight 56,000 microFarad capacitors with low ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) and a total capacity of 448,000

microFarad/100V smoothes the voltage to the output supply.

Static shielding isolates primary and secondary windings in the massive dual Holmgren transformers designed and built especially for the Gryphon Mephisto Solo.

By eliminating output relays, Gryphon Mephisto Solo achieves an extraordinary low output impedance. But most importantly, because output relays that can handle huge constant currents tend to have poor low to moderate signal transfer characteristics, the best relay is quite simply no relay at all.

As always with Gryphon, what is left out is just as critical as what goes in.

Non-Invasive Protection

Mephisto Solo is equipped with effective protection against overheating, DC input offset, short circuit, RF and incorrect voltage supply. Slow-start turn-on circuitry analyzes and confirms the status of the transformer, bridge rectifier, power supply, reservoir capacitors and amplification circuit prior to full power-up and before accepting any input signal.

Because the advanced Mephisto Solo protection circuitry is kept outside the signal path, full protection is achieved at no sacrifice in sound quality.

The Mephisto Solo binding terminals are custom designed, massive, gold-plated connectors which provide secure power transfer with speaker cables of any diameter.

Like its inspiration, the Gryphon Mephisto two-channel amplifier, Gryphon Mephisto Solo is a unique design concept, destined to find a place only in the care of the most obsessively demanding music lover.



Gryphon Mephisto

Dual Mono Reference Power Amplifier

As we strive to push back the boundaries of what is possible in home audio, Gryphon Audio Designs occasionally builds highly experimental testbed prototypes. We create these no holds barred components for our own edification as tools in the development and refinement of real-world products.

These rarefied, strictly non-commercial laboratory instruments serve as an absolute reference for the current state of the art. They are taken as prisoners exploratory projects, built with scant regard for cost, just as size, weight, appearance, transportability and spousal approval are wholly irrelevant.

The latest of these experiments, designed with no thought for the marketplace and no intention of being offered for sale have been dubbed the Gryphon Pandora preamplifier and the Gryphon Mephisto power amplifier.

They were conceived as a no-compromise, price-no-object design exercise to be the ultimate evaluative tools, to lend new meaning to such terms as resolution, soundstaging, transparency and, especially, musicality.

But, as was the case with the now legendary Gryphon Reference One power amplifier and Poseidon loudspeaker before them, both conceived for a similar higher purpose, history repeats itself, as friends, business partners, audio journalists and other visitors respond with ecstatic enthusiasm to the performance of these components in the Gryphon showroom.

As a consequence of this groundswell of encouragement, Gryphon founder and CEO Flemming E. Rasmussen decided that it would be an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the very first Gryphon power amplifier to offer our bench tools in a strictly limited edition to the select circle of individuals who share his unwavering obsession with the exploration of the farthest boundaries of music reproduction with no concessions to cost, size, weight and fashion.

The bold lines of the custom made Mephisto heatsink profiles and distinctive sheen of the brushed aluminium housing provide a visual

signal of exactly what to expect when the Mephisto is powered up in collaboration with the few audio components in the world that are worthy of its company.

Living up to its heritage as an evaluation tool, the Gryphon Mephisto is revealing with unrivalled surgical precision, yet remains inherently musical and true to the heart and soul of the performance. Without ever losing sight of the subtlest nuances and micro-details, Mephisto maintains a firm grip on coherence, timbre and the overall musical event.

Dynamic Integrity

As befits a product of its unique pedigree, the Gryphon Mephisto power amplifier stands in a class all its own when it comes to the crucial area of maintaining dynamic integrity, regardless of load conditions.

Mephisto is built to meet the challenge of the most advanced contemporary loudspeakers which typically present vicious reactive loads while drawing huge amounts of current. The dual mono Mephisto is capable of massive peak current swings and, equally vital, can do so into very low impedances without losing its cool.

Because Mephisto's perfectly linear output impedance preserves the integrity of the audio signal unconditionally, regardless of frequency or signal level, the amplifier's exceptional load tolerance makes it an ideal partner for the very finest loudspeakers.

In keeping with long-standing Gryphon tradition, the quality of sound reproduced by Gryphon Mephisto is completely level-independent. It is a huge amplifier capable of delivering its best at any volume setting, from background levels to full throttle.

To generate and control such pure power, each Mephisto channel is fitted with separate AC power inputs and individual custom designed Holmgren transformers with generous filtering capacity well-suited to the delivery of high pulse current. The fully regulated gain stage power supply ensures long-term reliability and safety.

Pure Power In, Pure Power Out

Since it is the function of a power amplifier to modulate the mains cur-

rent from the wall socket, the presence of even miniscule amounts of noise in the mains voltage can prevent a system from living up to its ultimate potential.

The carefully regulated and filtered power supply of the Gryphon Mephisto removes harmful high-frequency noise and voltage spikes without compromising current capacity. The complete removal of mains





noise enhances focus, immediacy, transient crispness and soundstage depth for a more beguiling and engaging listening experience.

Zero Global Negative Feedback

While negative feedback is a widespread means of suppressing measurable static forms of amplifier distortion, copious amounts of feedback

have the unfortunate side effect of introducing an over-damped, sterile sound, because the feedback itself leads to a rise in audible, dynamic distortion.

Gryphon Mephisto is designed with zero global negative feedback in order to meet the dynamic demands of the very best analogue and digital source components. The exceptional bandwidth of the Gryphon Mephisto – beyond 350 MHz - is achieved despite the total elimination of feedback.

Extreme Attention to Detail

Each printed circuit board in the Gryphon Mephisto is designed to facilitate accurate assembly and precision mounting to set a new standard for mechanical and electrical stability. Ideal constant safe operating conditions for all transistors in all amplifier stages maintain consistent performance, regardless of variations in temperature or signal level.

Only the finest components are employed throughout for optimal electrical and audio characteristics, including Takman resistors from Japan, Class A dual J-FET transistors in the input buffer for speed and clarity, a balanced differential input circuit based on a single carefully selected dual bipolar junction transistor. The voltage amplification stage incorporates high-speed Zetex surface mount transistors with minimal capacitance and high DC current gain (Hfe) and the output stage employs high-speed Toshiba pre-driver transistors.

A fully symmetrical, regulated low noise voltage supply has been used for all voltage amplification sections. Eight 56,000 microFarad capacitors with low ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) for a total capacity of 448,000 microFarad/100V smoothes the voltage to the output supply.

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the status of the transformer, bridge rectifier, power supply, reservoir capacitors and amplification circuit prior to full power-up and before accepting any input signal.

Because the advanced Mephisto protection circuitry is kept outside the signal path, full protection is achieved at no sacrifice in sound quality.

The Mephisto binding terminals are custom designed, massive, gold-plated connectors which provide secure power transfer with speaker cables of any diameter.

Weighing in at a healthy 108 kg and worthy of its origins as a one-of-a-kind design concept to demonstrate exactly what can be done with no constraints or restrictions of a monetary, practical or technical nature, Gryphon Mephisto offers stunning analytical capabilities that cut straight through to the emotional core of recorded music.

Paired with the equally uncompromising Gryphon Pandora pre-amplifier and connected with advanced Gryphon interconnects and speaker cable, the Gryphon Mephisto will continue to define the state of the audio art for years to come.

"But I've never heard the equal of the Gryphon Mephisto. It combines qualities that seem clearly contradictory: It had the best bass I could imagine, yet could image as precisely as anything I've heard. It expanded the soundstage in every direction, yet perfectly retained the midrange purity of a single performer standing dead center in the soundstage. It resolved the finest details of hi-rez recordings, and at the same time presented music in a cohesive, musically enjoyable manner at all times. It was as perfect a match for the ultra-revealing Magico Q7s as I think exists today.

Flemming Rasmussen has done it again. But this time, he's done it better than at any time in the past. The Gryphon Mephisto is the best audio product that he's yet produced. If it is indeed the last Gryphon amplifier that I review, that journey ends at a high point of my electronics-reviewing career. The sound of the Mephisto will be burned into my memory for a long, long time to come."

Jeff Fritz



"Once in your life, you should experience these components that challenge so many preconceived notions."
Stereo Prestige + Image, France



Find all reviews on www.gryphon-audio.dk

Gryphon Mephisto Review Sound+Image, Australia

“The Gryphon Mephisto is monstrous in almost all respects: it’s massively sized, heroically engineered and overtly styled. But it flies with powerful yet delicate wings – it conquers any, and I mean any, speaker load, and with transducers of equivalent stature it can convey profound sonic beauty. Yes, it is stratospherically priced, but for the lucky ones who are able to partake in such extreme audio luxuries, the Gryphon Mephisto is, arguably, without peer.”

Gryphon Mephisto Power Amplifier and Pandora Preamplifier Review Stereo Prestige & Image, no. 67, 2012, France

“In any case, in every musical parameter, these devices must be regarded as the absolute, inescapable reference. You don’t have to take our word for it, but here’s a piece of advice: Once in your life, you should experience these components that challenge so many preconceived notions.”

Gryphon Mephisto Elite award 2012 by Super AV Magazine, March, 2013

“Super AV Magazine in China selects Mephisto for the esteemed Outstanding overall Performance Elite Award 2012.”



Gryphon Mephisto wins top award in Russia

Mephisto Stereo selected for best amplifier 2012 by Top High End Russia.



Gryphon Mephisto Solo

- Pure Class A 200 Watts (8 Ohm), 400 W (4 Ohm), 800 W (2 Ohm), continuous RMS
- Monoblock configuration
- Zero global negative feedback
- 80 high current bipolar output transistors
- 1,000,000 microFarad capacitor bank
- DC servo-coupling
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Output coupling via massive copper bussbars
- No output relays
- Decoupled transformer casings
- Military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards
- Optimal circuit layout for shortest possible signal path
- Two separate Holmgren toroidal transformers with internal magnetic shielding

- Separate power supplies for amp and digital circuits
- Gold-plated Swiss Neutric XLR input sockets
- Gold-plated custom-built Gryphon binding posts
- Backlit, touch-sensitive front panel controls
- 12V remote power trigger for automatic turn-on
- Automatic Green Bias setting or manual Low/Mid/High bias
- Non-invasive protection system
- Power consumption at idle below latest EU requirements
- Designed and built in Denmark

Gryphon Mephisto

- Pure Class A 2 x 175 Watts (8 Ohm), 2 x 350 W (4 Ohm), 2 x 700W (2 Ohm), continuous RMS
- Pure Dual Mono configuration with separate AC power inputs
- Zero global negative feedback
- 40 high current bipolar output transistors
- 500,000 µF capacitor bank
- DC servo-coupling
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Output coupled via massive copper bussbars
- No output relays
- Decoupled transformer castings
- Military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards
- Optimal circuit layout for shortest possible signal path

- Two separate Holmgren toroidal transformers with internal magnetic shielding
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Gryphon Antileon EVO

Stereo Reference Power Amplifier

Although we as quality conscious consumers would prefer to live in a world where product development is always guided by incremental, evolutionary improvement, most often it is driven by sheer economics. This year's model is typically only a marginal variation on last year's, in yet another thinly veiled attempt to separate the consumer from more hard-earned cash on a regular, seasonal basis.

Among the few exceptions to this rule, Gryphon Audio Designs have never subscribed to the ritual of annual product roll-outs. On the contrary, you only hear from us when we have something truly new and original to say.

This is the simple explanation of why the Gryphon Antileon Signature (Stereo and Monoblock) Pure Class A reference power amplifiers introduced in 2000 remained available for nearly a decade and a half. Because cynical planned obsolescence is never part of the Gryphon design concept, the Antileon Signature, like every Gryphon model, was engineered and built to remain at the forefront of audio performance for many years until we were able to offer a significant step forward.

The Antileon Signature, like its predecessor, the original Antileon, was born a classic, establishing itself immediately in High End circles as one of the most acclaimed amplifiers of all time. Loyal devotees around the world praise its singular ability to maintain a firm grip on even the most demanding loudspeakers and reveal the innermost soul of any musical performance.

Now, the Gryphon Antileon EVO, available in stereo and single-channel configurations, takes the next evolutionary step.

A long time coming and well worth the wait.

Current Events

All amplifiers are not created equal, even if their published specifications might suggest otherwise. The extreme high current capability of

the Gryphon Antileon EVO, for instance, is something that must be experienced first-hand, not merely gleaned from a specifications sheet. The wattage (W) that an amplifier is capable of generating is in fact the mathematical product of two factors, Voltage (V) multiplied by Current measured in Amperes (A).

On paper, a low-current, high-voltage amp would appear to produce the same number of Watts as a low-voltage, high current amp, but only if one does not take into account the crucial fact that the ability to generate high instantaneous current is far more critical and relevant to actual audible performance.

For this reason, the Gryphon Antileon EVO, like all Gryphon amplifiers before it, is a true high current design. With exceptional peak-to-peak current capability, the Gryphon Antileon EVO ensures compatibility with even the most viciously reactive loudspeaker loads, permitting the loudspeaker of your choice to perform at its very best.

Unapologetically Uncompromising

Recent decades have seen concerted efforts by audio manufacturers to encourage a shift away from high-power Class A amplification in favour of newer, more "efficient" topologies with claims that they can deliver the same level of performance in a lighter, more compact and decorator-friendly form factor.

The truth behind these specious allegations and the true motivation behind the promotion of lightweight amplification are very straightforward. It is an elementary exercise in cost cutting.

As material costs (copper and steel in particular) skyrocket, designers under the "guidance" of corporate accountants have been skimping on the costly massive power transformers and banks of high-current capacitors that generate the reservoir of electrical power that ultimately becomes the audio signal that drives your loudspeakers.

But it is the size and quality of these components that directly determine the amplifier's performance potential. Heavily regulated, stiff pow-

er supply voltages and high current capability are crucial to achieving the control and speed that translate into musical clarity and resolution.

Despite bold claims, the audio industry has not found a better way to do it, just cheaper ways to *almost* do it.

Unlike so many current models crippled by downsized power supplies and capacitor banks as designers struggle to mitigate the impact of ever-rising raw material costs, the Gryphon Antileon EVO employs pure Class A bias with full power instantaneously available at all times, regardless of the actual load.

TRUE, PURE CLASS A requires heavy transformers, substantial capacitor banks, high electrical consumption, lots of heat, massive heat-sinks and very, very expensive parts and manufacturing.

There is no shortcut to the sheer magic of pure Class A.

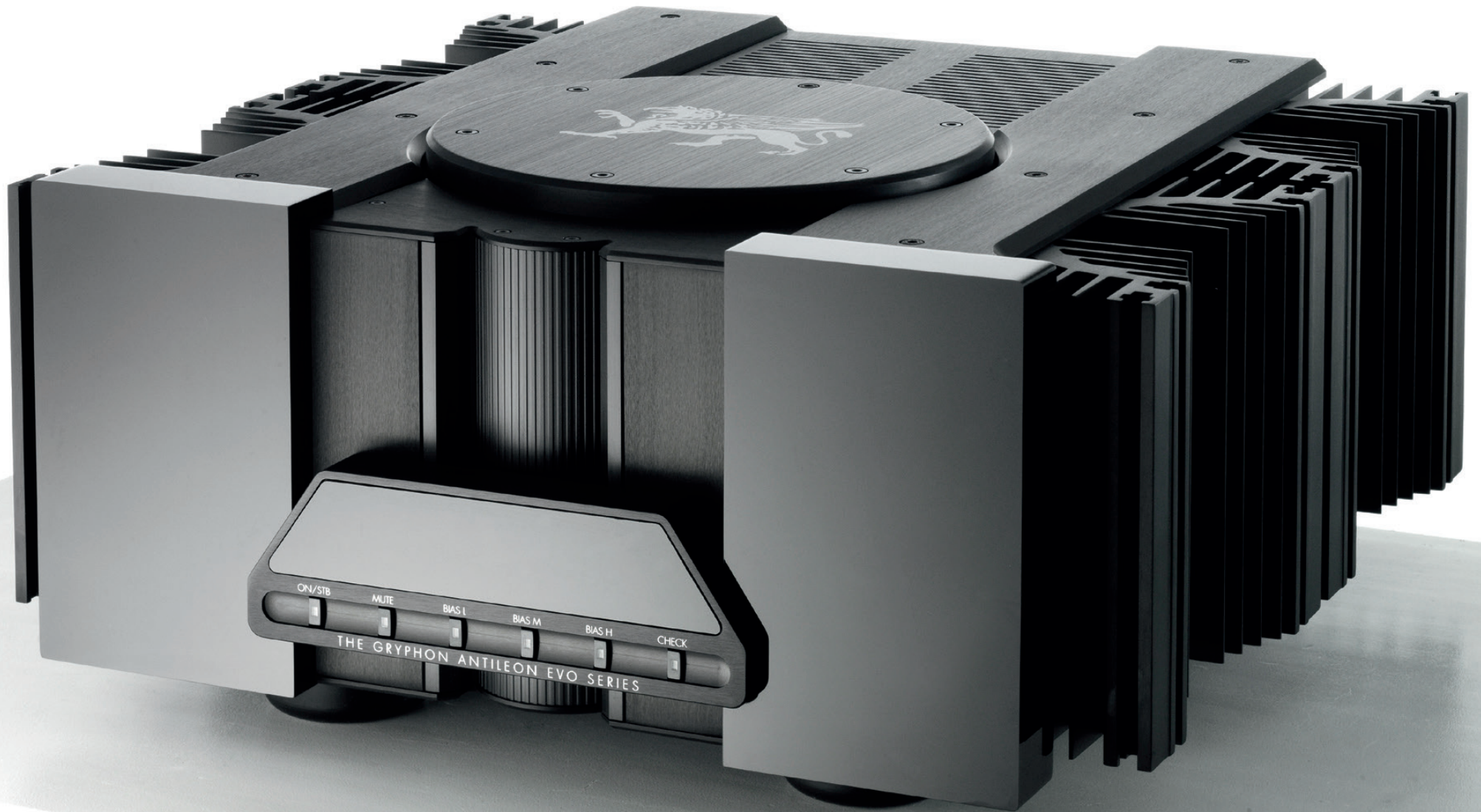
Class A Bias

Gryphon Antileon EVO employs true Class A bias for instantaneous availability of full current at all times.

Gryphon rejects any biasing scheme which attempts to simulate Class A bias by switching to a higher bias level when a more dynamic signal is detected. This type of sensor can only respond after the fact, because it is not possible to adjust bias rapidly enough to accurately "track" dynamic changes in real time in music which is rich in impulses.

For situations in which the full power of the Antileon EVO will not be required (a small room, undemanding music, background listening, efficient loudspeakers, etc.) the owner has the option of selecting full or reduced Class A bias via front panel controls.

For a more flexible approach, when paired with a Gryphon pre-amplifier via Gryphon's proprietary Green Bias Link, power amplifier bias can be adjusted automatically in relation to the position of the pre-amplifier's volume control. The user always has Class A power on tap as needed at any given time with massive power reserves ready and waiting. ▶





THE GRYPHON ANTILEON
EVO SERIES

PURE CLASS A POWER AMPLIFIER
MADE IN DENMARK BY GRYPHON AUDIO DESIGNS



AC FUSE
100-120V: T 12A - 250V
200-240V: T 6,3A - 250V

12V
LINK

GREEN
BIAS

AC POWER RIGHT

AC POWER LEFT

Deep Inside

Naturally, there is a lot going on beneath the lid of a fully discrete, pure-Class A, fully balanced power amplifier with twin-tiered banks of electrolytic capacitors connected to the mains with two power switches and two detachable power cords.

The twin custom-designed 1500W toroidal power supply transformers are mechanically isolated from the chassis. A special epoxy resin is used to optimise vibration damping for the transformer. For additional isolation, the shielded, epoxy-damped housing is mounted in a suspension system for effective vibration control.

Apart from the shielded transformer housing, only non-magnetic materials are employed throughout the Gryphon Antileon EVO.

The separate driver section incorporates its own generous, independently regulated bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors powered from separate windings on the transformers. A unique mechanical design provides optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices.

Bypass capacitors are placed close to the output transistors, not, as is conventionally the case, right up against the power capacitors. This contributes to significantly enhanced high frequency performance.

Internal wiring is kept to an absolute minimum with only a single short length of Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver wire.

Two sets of rugged gold-plated binding posts of Gryphon's own design are provided for bi-wiring. The multi-way proprietary terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs, banana connectors or any combination of these.

Diagnostics and Security

The unique, non-invasive Gryphon protection system provides reliable

protection with no fuses in the signal path and without compromising signal purity and simplicity. Gryphon Antileon EVO is an exceptional powerhouse amplifier that does not require the false security of sonically degrading relays in the signal path to the speaker.

Gryphon Antileon EVO incorporates full diagnostic firmware, accessible at the press of a single button to run a series of tests to monitor proper operation.

Fit and Finish

Acknowledging that the Gryphon EVO will be a heavy, imposing addition to any living space, Flemming E. Rasmussen, Gryphon's founder and a trained artist and industrial designer, has styled it to make a bold, sculptural statement that is as functional as it is elegant.

Every chassis component is fitted to the next with extreme precision for a rigid, non-resonant structure, while each piece is machined to excruciatingly tight tolerances. The perforated top plate provides ventilation for added heat dissipation.

The faceplate is machined out of a solid 40 mm black acrylic block that houses the LED display and the easily accessible front panel controls. While an acrylic faceplate of this thickness is more costly than conventional aluminium, Gryphon's artistic souls prefer it for its high gloss sheen and striking textural contrast to the amplifier's aluminium surfaces.

With the exception of the faceplate, the Antileon EVO exterior consists entirely of brushed, black anodized aluminium with countersunk Allen screws for a seamless appearance.

At home in the finest interior, the battleship build quality combines with stylish, organic form to create an object of timeless beauty to match the exquisite pleasure of listening to music re-created by the Gryphon Antileon EVO power amplifier.

Gryphon Antileon EVO Stereo

- 2 x 150 Watts Pure Class A
- Fully balanced input and Voltage Amplifier Stage (VAS)
- 40 High current bipolar output transistors
- 670,000 μ F power capacitor bank
- Newly developed ultrafast J-FET input stage
- Custom-developed ultra-low noise regulated power supply for voltage amplifier stage (VAS)
- DC servo circuitry with Mundorf RXF Polypropylene capacitors for power supply decoupling
- Takman REY precision resistors
- Flat frequency response to beyond 350 kHz
- Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver internal wiring
- Custom-built separate toroidal transformers
- Shielded, epoxy-damped transformer casings suspended for effective vibration isolation
- Separate power supply for display and control circuits
- No output relays
- Frequency-independent damping factor
- Proprietary Gryphon double binding posts
- Automatic Green Class A bias setting or manual Low/High bias selection
- AC power status and polarity display
- Rigid mechanical structure
- Microprocessor-controlled non-invasive "smart" protection system
- Double sealed, mil spec PCB with 105 μ m copper traces
- Upgradeable microprocessor software.

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Recent decades have seen concerted efforts by audio manufacturers to encourage a shift away from high-power Class A amplification in favour of newer, more "efficient" topologies with claims that they can deliver the same level of performance in a lighter, more compact and decorator-friendly form factor.

The truth behind these specious allegations and the true motivation behind the promotion of lightweight amplification are very straightforward. It is an elementary exercise in cost cutting.

As material costs (copper and steel in particular) skyrocket, designers under the "guidance" of corporate accountants have been skimping on the costly massive power transformers and banks of high-current capacitors that generate the reservoir of electrical power that ultimately becomes the audio signal that drives your loudspeakers.

But it is the size and quality of these components that directly determine the amplifier's performance potential. Heavily regulated, stiff power-supply voltages and high current capability are crucial to achieving the control and speed that translate into musical clarity and resolution.

Despite bold claims, the audio industry has not found a better way to do it, just cheaper ways to *almost* do it.

Unlike so many current models crippled by downsized power supplies and capacitor banks as designers struggle to mitigate the impact of ever-rising raw material costs, the Gryphon Antileon EVO employs pure Class A bias with full power instantaneously available at all times, regardless of the actual load.

TRUE, PURE CLASS A requires heavy transformers, high electrical consumption, lots of heat, substantial heatsinks, and very, very expensive parts and manufacturing.

There is no shortcut to the sheer magic of pure Class A.

Infinite Separation

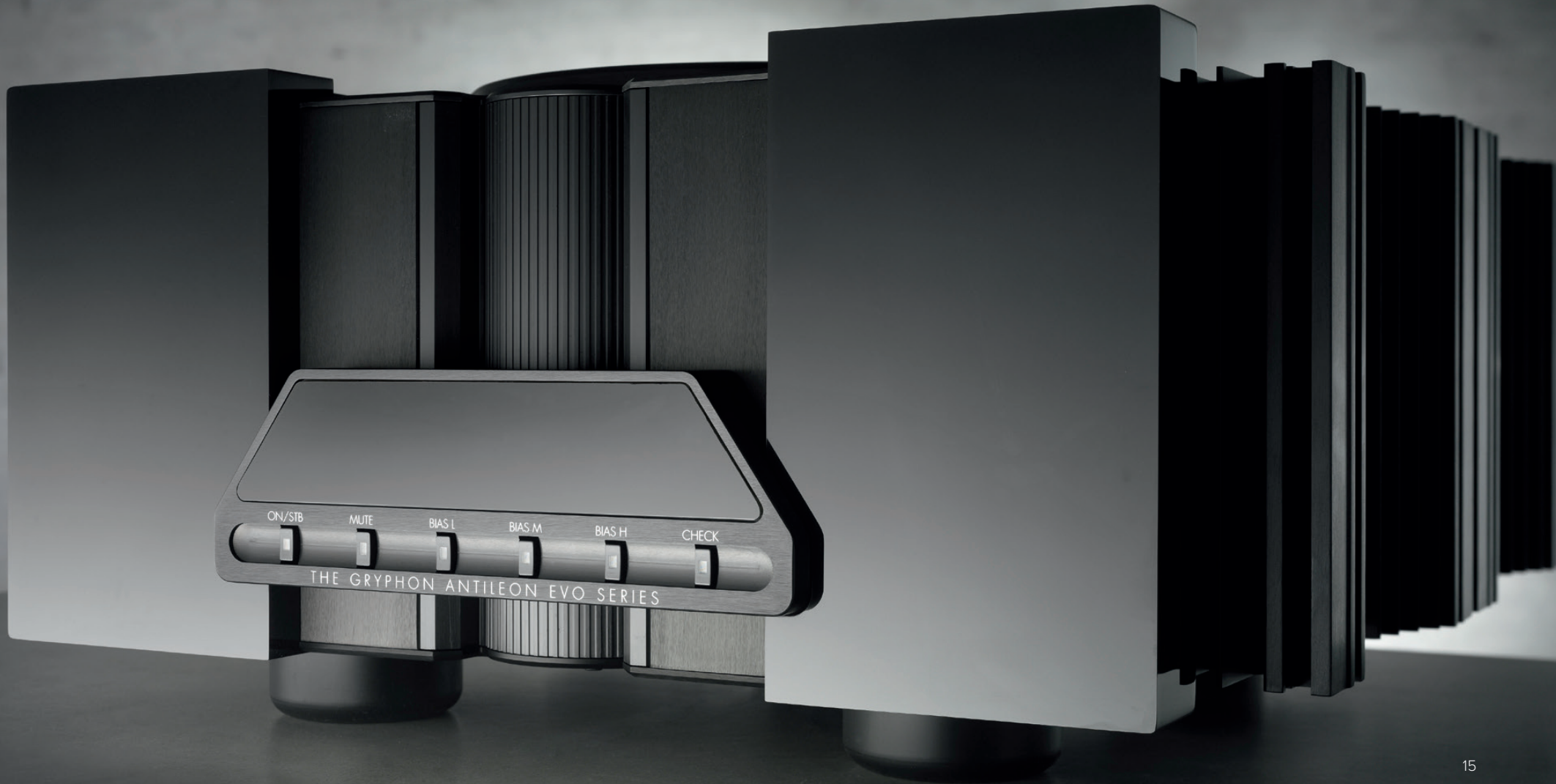
While monoblock power amplifiers are by no means rare in the uppermost echelons of High End audio, few - if any - are executed as conscientiously and uncompromisingly as the single-channel Gryphon Antileon EVO Monoblock. More than 90% of all other mono amplifiers have been "designed" easily and speedily, simply by bridging the two channels of an existing stereo model.

Unfortunately, while bridging increases nominal output power, other critical parameters take a major hit.

Because the Gryphon EVO monoblock employs parallel-coupling instead of series coupling (bridging), distortion is cut in half, damping factor is doubled and output impedance is cut in half, doubling current capability for absolute control of loudspeaker loads as low as 1 Ohm.

Two physically independent audio channels on separate chassis effectively eliminates any interaction or interference between the two channels for infinite separation and the rock-solid holographic imaging that has become a Gryphon hallmark.

With completely separate power supplies isolated on independent chassis, even the most extreme instantaneous current draw in one channel will have no impact whatsoever on the other channel. The ready availability of high current on demand lends an effortless ▶





Gryphon Antileon EVO Monoblock

- 175 Watts Pure Class A mono
- Parallel coupling (*not* bridging/series coupling) reduces distortion and output impedance by 50%, doubles damping factor and current capability
- Fully balanced input and Voltage Amplifier Stage (VAS)
- 40 High current bipolar output transistors
- 670,000 μF power capacitor bank
- Newly developed ultrafast J-FET input stage
- Custom-developed ultra-low noise regulated power supply for voltage amplifier stage (VAS).
- DC servo circuitry with Mundorf RXF Polypropylene capacitors for power supply decoupling
- Takman REY precision resistors
- Flat frequency response to beyond 350 kHz
- Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver internal wiring
- Custom-built separate toroidal transformers
- Shielded, epoxy-damped transformer casings suspended for effective vibration isolation
- Isolated power supply for display and control circuits
- No output relays
- Frequency-independent damping factor
- Proprietary Gryphon double binding posts
- Automatic Green Class A bias setting or manual Low/High bias selection
- AC power status and polarity display
- Rigid mechanical structure
- Microprocessor-controlled non-invasive “smart” protection system
- Double sealed, mil spec PCB with 105 μm copper traces
- Upgradeable microprocessor software.

► smoothness and consistency to the musical performance of the Gryphon Antileon EVO monoblock, even at realistic concert hall levels.

As a single-channel design, the Gryphon Antileon EVO monoblock doubles the transformer capacity and the number of transistors and power capacitors operating in each channel, enhancing its suitability for use with typical High End loudspeakers with low sensitivity, low impedance and large phase angles.

Class A Bias

Gryphon Antileon EVO employs true Class A bias for instantaneous availability of full current at all times.

Gryphon rejects any biasing scheme which attempts to simulate Class A bias by switching to a higher bias level when a more dynamic signal is detected. This type of sensor can only respond after the fact, because it is not possible to adjust bias rapidly enough to accurately “track” dynamic changes in real time in music which is rich in impulses.

For situations in which the full power of the Antileon EVO will not be required (a small room, undemanding music, background listening, efficient loudspeakers, etc.) the owner has the option of selecting full or reduced Class A bias via front panel controls.

For a more flexible approach, when paired with a Gryphon preamplifier via Gryphon’s proprietary Green Bias Link, power amplifier bias can be adjusted automatically in relation to the position of the preamplifier’s volume control. The user always has Class A power on tap as needed at any given time with massive power reserves ready and waiting.

Deep Inside

Naturally, there is a lot going on beneath the lid of a fully discrete, pure-Class A, fully balanced power amplifier with twin-tiered banks of electrolytic capacitors.

The twin custom-designed 1500W toroidal power supply transformers are mechanically isolated from the chassis. A special epoxy resin is



used to optimise vibration damping for the transformer. For additional isolation, the shielded, epoxy-damped housing is mounted in a suspension system for effective vibration control.

Apart from the shielded transformer housing, only non-magnetic materials are employed throughout the Gryphon Antileon EVO.

The separate driver section incorporates its own generous, independently regulated bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors powered from separate windings on the transformers. A unique mechanical design provides optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices.

Bypass capacitors are placed close to the output transistors, not, as is conventionally the case, right up against the power capacitors. This contributes to significantly enhanced high frequency performance.

Internal wiring is kept to an absolute minimum with only a single short length of Gryphon Guideline Reference gold-embedded silver wire.

Two sets of rugged gold-plated binding posts of Gryphon’s own design are provided for bi-wiring. The multi-way proprietary terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs, banana connectors or any combination of these.

Diagnostics and Security

The unique, non-invasive Gryphon protection system provides reliable protection with no fuses in the signal path and without compromising signal purity and simplicity. Gryphon Antileon EVO is an exceptional powerhouse amplifier that does not require the false security of sonically degrading relays in the signal path to the speaker.

Gryphon Antileon EVO incorporates full diagnostic firmware, accessible at the press of a single button to run a series of tests to monitor proper operation.

Fit and Finish

Acknowledging that the Gryphon EVO will be a heavy, imposing addition to any living space, Flemming E. Rasmussen, Gryphon’s founder and a trained artist and industrial designer, has styled it to make a bold, sculptural statement that is as functional as it is elegant.

Every chassis component is fitted to the next with extreme precision for a rigid, non-resonant structure, while each piece is machined to excruciatingly tight tolerances. The perforated top plate provides ventilation for added heat dissipation.

The faceplate is machined out of a solid 40 mm black acrylic block that houses the LED display and the easily accessible front panel controls. While an acrylic faceplate of this thickness is more costly than conventional aluminium, Gryphon’s artistic souls prefer it for its high gloss sheen and striking textural contrast to the amplifier’s aluminium surfaces.

With the exception of the faceplate, the Antileon EVO exterior consists entirely of brushed, black anodized aluminium with countersunk Allen screws for a seamless appearance.

At home in the finest interior, the battleship build quality combines with stylish, organic form to create an object of timeless beauty to match the exquisite pleasure of listening to music re-created by the Gryphon Antileon EVO power amplifier.

Gryphon Colosseum Solo

Monoblock Amplifier

Never tempted by shortcuts or compromise of any kind, Gryphon Audio Designs has consistently pursued new levels of realism in music reproduction for over a quarter of a century. Through the years, the Gryphon name has come to stand for the world's most revealing High End components with peerless finish and build quality to inspire lasting pride of ownership.

This is the background for the comprehensive and intensive research and development project that culminated in the Gryphon Colosseum Solo single-channel power amplifier.

Building on the success and acclaim accorded the two-channel Colosseum, the monoblock Colosseum Solo exudes strength, pains-taking attention to even the minutest details, uncompromising stability under virtually any operating conditions and exceptional transient response, phase response and current capability. Armed with enormous current reserves, it will never be caught off guard by the complex impedance loads of even the most demanding loudspeaker.

While monoblock power amplifiers are by no means rare in the uppermost echelons of High End audio, few - if any - are executed as conscientiously and uncompromisingly as the Gryphon Colosseum Solo. More than 90% of all other mono amplifiers have been "designed" easily and speedily, simply by bridging the two channels of an existing stereo model.

Unfortunately, while bridging increases nominal output power, other critical parameters, such as distortion and damping factor, take a major hit. Most crucially, bridging doubles output impedance, thereby reducing current capability by a substantial 50%.

By implementing parallel-coupling in the Gryphon Colosseum Solo instead of bridging, distortion is cut in half, damping factor is doubled and output impedance is cut in half, doubling current capability and enabling absolute control of loudspeaker loads as low as 1 Ohm.

The implementation of two physically independent audio channels on separate chassis effectively eliminates any interaction or interference between the two channels for infinite channel separation and the rock-solid holographic imaging that has become a Gryphon hallmark.

As a practical and stylish side effect, monoblock configuration and vertical orientation of the Gryphon Colosseum Solo invites the owner to place each amplifier in the immediate vicinity of its loudspeaker.

The slim, majestic high-rise tower of the Colosseum Solo occupies minimal floor space. With end plates machined from solid blocks of 40 mm black polyvinylmethacrylate and smart, curved side panels of your choice, the Colosseum Solo is a strikingly handsome minimalist sculpture that will enhance any space.

Any attempt to describe or analyze the audible characteristics of the Colosseum Solo is simply doomed to failure. As should be the case at this exalted level of ambition and engineering skill, it possesses no discernible sonic signature or identity of its own. Consider it a doorway that opens wide into the original recorded space, revealing performers in a supremely natural re-creation of three-dimensional reality that will take your breath away.

For Your Convenience

For ultimate convenience, the Colosseum Solo can be configured to turn on automatically when your Gryphon preamplifier turns on and to

shut down following a period with no signal. A software-based user interface permits easy, intuitive access to practical user-controlled features.

A sophisticated protection system with no current limiting or other signal degrading effects protects the Gryphon Colosseum Solo in the event of DC, short circuit, overheating, LF or HF.

Pure Class A and Green Bias

Gryphon Audio Designs remains committed to discrete circuitry and Class A bias in the Gryphon Colosseum Solo power amplifier. As a result each monoblock weighs in at a hefty 80 kg.

True Class A operation has always been a Gryphon benchmark, because there is no substitute for the sheer musical magic of pure Class A. The Colosseum Solo operates in true Class A mode with maximum power instantaneously available at all times, for unrivalled speed, control and accuracy. Once you experience the effortless realism and musicality of pure Class A, there is no turning back.

Because 180 Watts of pure Class A power is overkill for the vast majority of applications (in particular with efficient loudspeakers, in small rooms, or at low listening levels), the Gryphon Colosseum Solo incorporates proprietary Green Bias circuitry which automatically adjusts bias level to match the selected volume setting when paired with a Gryphon Mirage or Sonata Allegro preamplifier. Tracking bias in this way significantly reduces power consumption and heat generated by the amplifier without compromising Class A audio performance. For use with a preamplifier without Green Bias, the Gryphon Colosseum Solo features three-step (High, Mid, Low) manual bias adjustment.

A Personal Design Statement

In selecting a finish for your Colosseum Solo, the possibilities are limited solely by your imagination. Because the side panels are based on an innovative modular construction, your dealer can remove and replace them in a simple operation. With Gryphon, your choice of finish is no longer a lifetime commitment.

This exclusive Gryphon service gives the proud Colosseum Solo owner access to virtually unlimited custom finish options not only at the time of original purchase, but also at any time after that and as often as you desire. Whenever you re-decorate or move, you can have your Gryphon Colosseum re-dressed and updated to always keep pace with your evolving personal style and interior decor.

Tech Talk

The ultra-wide frequency bandwidth of the Gryphon Colosseum Solo, with frequency response extending beyond 350 kHz, ensures high slew rate and perfect phase characteristics essential to correct sound-stage reproduction.

Amplifier circuitry is suspended between the curved, de-coupled side panels in a unique configuration that provides optimal layout and operating conditions for all components. Dual 1,400 Watt transformers are isolated and effectively shielded to prevent unwanted interaction with other components.

Unique mechanical design ensures optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices. The separate driver section has its own power supply from individual windings on the custom-built toroidal

transformers and features its own generous bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors.

The output section employs Sanken bipolar output devices for extreme reliability in addition to outstanding sonic performance. These transistors deliver momentary peak power of 7,000 Watts per channel without overload. Each of the 48 transistors per channel is bypassed with individual film capacitors.

In the best Gryphon tradition, the Colosseum Solo utilizes a completely independent transformer and power supply for display and control circuits, creating an effective firewall that prevents digital noise generated by these circuits from reaching the amplifier circuits.

Negative feedback is not used and DC coupling is achieved with DC servo circuitry. Internal wiring in the signal path is kept to an absolute minimum, using only the finest Gryphon Guideline Reference silver cable.

The Gryphon Colosseum Solo is fitted with a single balanced input. Eliminating phono sockets in the signal path ensures the integrity of the sensitive audio signal.



Gryphon Colosseum

Stereo Amplifier

In the aftermath of our milestone 25th anniversary, Gryphon Audio Designs can look back with pride on more than a quarter of a century spent re-defining the state of the art in music listening for the domestic environment.

As the introduction of the breakthrough Colosseum Stereo Power Amplifier makes abundantly clear, Gryphon continues to define and refine the future of cutting edge home audio, selectively and critically incorporating emerging technological advances in the service of your listening pleasure.

Like every Gryphon product from the very beginning, the Gryphon Colosseum is designed by Gryphon founder and CEO, Flemming E. Rasmussen, and manufactured in Denmark under his creative guidance.

Every Gryphon component reflects his training and experience as an artist and industrial designer, as his acclaimed aesthetic sensibilities imbues them with uniquely original form and functionality.

At Gryphon, form follows function as innovative engineering gives rise to the perfect fusion of sublime musicality and daring, imaginative design for enhanced pride of ownership even during those rare moments when your Gryphon system stands silent.

Gryphon makes a new level of innovative design and musical insight available to the fortunate few with the Colosseum Stereo Power Amplifier, the latest chapter in the adventure that is the Gryphon's tale.

Curiosity and Ambition

Fittingly, the Gryphon's tale is not the typical story of how a company created a product. Instead, it is the story of how a product created a company a quarter of a century ago, as Gryphon's founder and a close-knit circle

of talented friends created a product for their own use out of sheer unadulterated curiosity to see just how far performance could be taken if mundane concerns such as cost and conventional thinking were excluded from the creative process.

The result was a product (the now legendary Gryphon Head Amp) so far beyond the current state of the art in both technology and concept that it remains a much sought after cult component that even now can hold its own in performance and serves as a milestone reference for many audiophiles.

This "take no prisoners" approach would lay the foundation for all Gryphon products to come and that unbridled curiosity and ambition to reveal even more of the essence of every musical performance remain the driving force behind all our efforts to this very day.

Curiosity and ambition were sparked by the seemingly arrogant notion that Gryphon should not give people what they want, but instead offer them what they truly need, but just didn't know it yet. Fortunately, a growing number of music lovers and dedicated audiophiles saw the value and validity of this approach, despite the substantial price of admission that makes Gryphon the exclusive reserve of a small circle of discerning individuals who insist on owning the very best.

By its very nature, Gryphon is likely to remain a brand name that many have heard of, some have had the rare opportunity to experience, but only a select few are fortunate enough to own.

This is the way it must be for a company driven solely by the desire to offer products that are not superseded by next year's Spring collection, a company populated with opinionated individualists who can only find satisfaction in developing lasting technology and timeless industrial design that interfaces perfectly with the owner's contemporary lifestyle.

Tower of Power

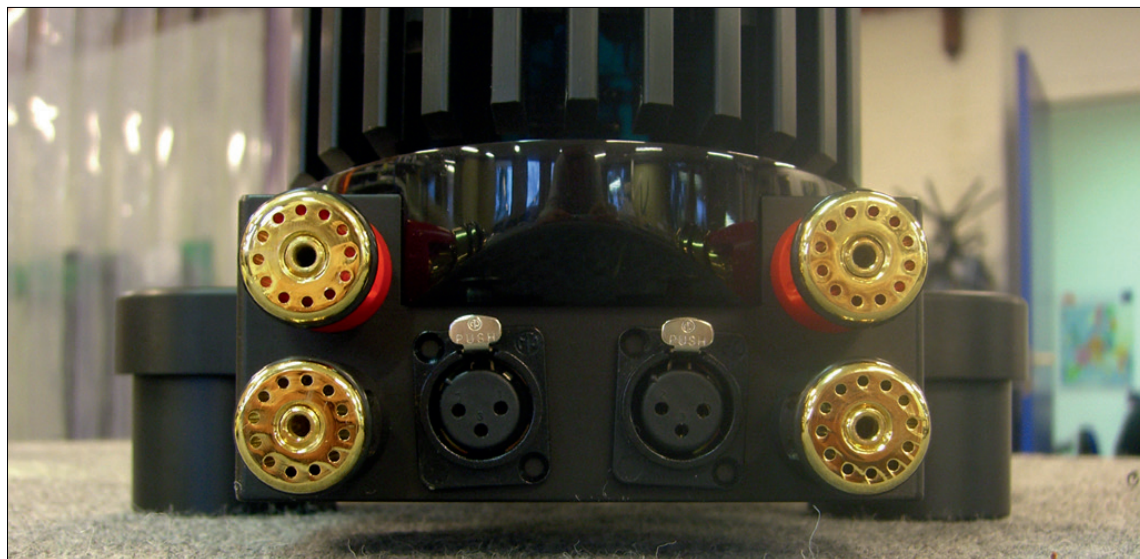
The Gryphon Colosseum was designed to partner the Mirage preamplifier, the radical design experiment that laid the cornerstone for an esoteric third tier of Gryphon components. Representing the fruit of an extraordinary comprehensive development project, the Colosseum Stereo Power Amplifier will enhance any home audio system.

For ultimate convenience, the Colosseum can be configured to turn on automatically when the preamplifier turns on and to power down following a period with no signal. A software-based user interface permits easy, intuitive access to practical user-controlled features.

Gryphon Audio Designs remains committed to discrete circuitry and 100% Class A bias in the Gryphon Colosseum power amplifier, weighing in at 80 kg.

While the Colosseum takes Gryphon's distinctive styling one step further, our ongoing commitment to uncompromising sound quality is reaffirmed by a wealth of details such as 2 x 160 Watts Pure Class A output power, 48 High-current bipolar output transistors, a 340,000 microFarad power capacitor bank and flat frequency response extending beyond 350 kHz.

The strict dual mono amplifier is suspended between the curved, de-coupled side panels in a unique configuration that



provides optimal layout and operating conditions for all components. The dual transformers are isolated and effectively shielded to prevent unwanted interaction with other components.

Unique mechanical design ensures optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices. The separate driver section has its own power supply from individual windings on the custom-built toroidal transformers and features its own generous bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors. The output section employs Sanken bipolar output devices for extreme reliability in addition to outstanding sonic performance. These transistors deliver momentary peak power of 4,000 Watts per channel without overload. Each of the 48 transistors is bypassed with individual film capacitors.

In the best Gryphon tradition, the Colosseum utilizes a completely independent transformer and power supply for display and control circuits, creating an effective firewall that prevents digital noise generated by these circuits from reaching the amplifier circuits.

Negative feedback is not used and DC coupling is achieved with DC servo circuitry. Internal wiring in the signal path is kept to an absolute minimum. The finest Gryphon Guideline Reference silver cable is used throughout.

The Gryphon Colosseum is fitted with balanced inputs exclusively. Eliminating phono sockets in the signal path ensures the integrity of the sensitive audio signal.

The custom-built Gryphon speaker terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs and banana connectors for a tight, reliable connection.

Pure Class A and Green Bias

True Class A operation has always been a Gryphon benchmark, because there is no substitute for the sheer musical magic of pure Class A. The Colosseum operates in true Class A mode with maximum power instantaneously available at all times, for unrivalled speed, control and accuracy. Once you experience the effortless realism and musicality of pure Class A, there is no turning back.

For situations where full Class A operation is not required, the Gryphon Colosseum incorporates proprietary Green Bias circuitry,

which automatically adjusts bias level to match the selected volume setting when paired with a Gryphon Mirage or Sonata Allegro preamplifier. Tracking bias in this way significantly reduces power consumption and heat generated by the amplifier without compromising Class A audio performance.

For use with a preamplifier without Green Bias, the Gryphon Colosseum also features three-step manual bias adjustment.

Your Design Statement

The slim, majestic oval-shaped high rise tower of the Gryphon Colosseum occupies minimal floor space. With end plates machined from solid blocks of 40 mm black polyvinylmethacrylate and smart, curved side panels of your choice, the Colosseum is a strikingly handsome minimalist sculpture that will enhance any space.

Uniquely, the design of your personal Gryphon Colosseum power amplifier is entirely up to you. Thanks to the modular construction of the sleekly curved side panels, your Gryphon dealer can remove and replace them easily, for custom styling options limited solely by the owner's imagination. ▶



UltraAudio.com, February 2011

Gryphon Mirage and Colosseum

Now Ultra Audio SELECT Components:

"If you have the money, seek them out for audition, even if you have to travel across land and sea to do so. You'll be richly rewarded by the experience, in the ways that only great art can reward."

www.soundstage.com. Jan. 2012

Gryphon Colosseum and Mirage named Product of the Year 2011

Aesthetics and Sound Award



Find all reviews on
www.gryphon-audio.dk



"A Contemporary Design Statement with a Pure Audiophile Heart"

► Whenever you re-decorate or move, you can have your Gryphon Colosseum re-dressed and updated to always keep pace with your evolving personal style and interior decor.

This exclusive service and extraordinary level of flexibility was pioneered by Gryphon for our Atlantis, Trident and Poseidon loudspeaker systems and remains unique in home audio. It is our philosophy that the Gryphon owner deserves not only sound quality to the highest audiophile standards, but also a personalised design statement equally pleasing to the eye.

An Aspirational Ideal

A new component from Gryphon Audio Designs is always a noteworthy event in and of itself. Gryphon product introductions are exceedingly rare, because our carefully considered designs immediately take a well

deserved place at the forefront of their field and maintain that elevated status for many years.

Just as a Formula One racing machine can raise the standard and inspire the competition as well as makers of conventional street legal vehicles for years to come, each Gryphon component takes audio technology and the understanding of music reproduction to new heights that serve as inspiration for others and have made Gryphon Audio Designs a force to be reckoned with in High End audio for two and a half decades.

As always throughout our history, it is the mission of the Gryphon Colosseum Stereo Power Amplifier to deliver the best of both worlds, superb musical performance allied with a rarefied design aesthetic to make an uncompromising statement that the proud Gryphon owner instinctively respects and appreciates.

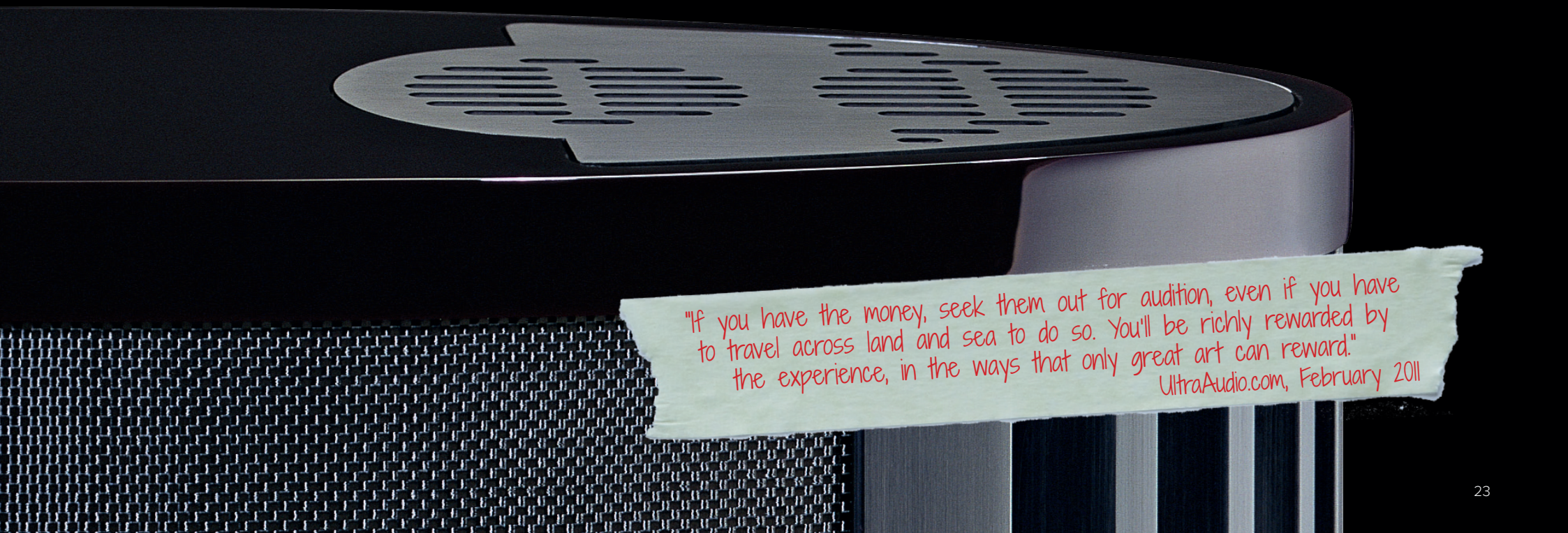


Colosseum Solo

- Independent mono chassis configuration
- Pure Class A - 180 Watts (8 Ohm)
- Zero global negative feedback
- high current bipolar output transistors (stereo pair)
- 680,000 μ F capacitor bank (stereo pair)
- Fully symmetrical regulated low noise power supply for all voltage amplifying stages
- Premium polypropylene capacitors for local power supply decoupling
- DC servo coupling
- Gryphon Guideline Reference silver internal wiring
- Decoupled printed circuit boards and transformer castings
- Military spec. double-sided up to 105 μ m copper printed circuit boards
- Two separate Holmgren toroidal transformers
- Separate power supplies for digital and analog circuits
- Gold-plated Swiss Neutric XLR balanced input
- Gold-plated custom-built binding posts
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with 2 lines and 20 characters
- Adjustable display lighting (High, Medium, Low)
- Selectable Auto Power On/Off
- Selectable automatic Green Bias setting or manual Low/Mid/High bias adjustment
- Flash memory upgrades via PC
- Non-invasive protection system
- Unlimited custom side panel finish options
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark

Colosseum Stereo

- Pure Dual Mono configuration
- Pure Class A - 2 x 160 Watts (8 Ohm)
- Zero global negative feedback
- 48 high current bipolar output transistors
- 340,000 μ F capacitor bank
- Balanced circuit
- DC servo-coupling
- Gryphon Guideline silver internal wiring
- Decoupled Printed Circuit Boards and transformer castings
- Military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards
- Two separate Holmgren toroidal transformers with internal magnetic shielding
- Separate power supplies for digital and analogue circuits
- Gold-plated Swiss Neutric XLR input sockets
- Gold-plated custom-built binding posts
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display
- Adjustable display brightness
- Selectable automatic Green Bias setting or manual Low/Mid/High bias
- Firmware upgrades via PC
- Non-invasive protection system
- Designed and built in Denmark



"If you have the money, seek them out for audition, even if you have to travel across land and sea to do so. You'll be richly rewarded by the experience, in the ways that only great art can reward."
UltraAudio.com, February 2011

Gryphon Pandora

Reference Preamplifier

Gryphon has always marched to the beat of a different drum. Way back in 1985, when Flemming E. Rasmussen and tech guru Kim Rishøj created the groundbreaking Gryphon Headamp, it was on a strictly one-off, do-it-yourself hobby basis. Flemming just wanted to build the best possible headamp for his home system, not to get into manufacturing consumer products.

But word spread rapidly in the audiophile community until Flemming could no longer ignore a steady stream of requests and, suddenly, Gryphon Audio Designs was born.

In the intervening years, Gryphon has constantly had one or more projects in the works as experimental platforms, exploratory testbeds intended to bring us ever closer to a credible illusion of actually being in the presence of the performers. Although never meant for public consumption, these components invariably impress the fortunate few who have the opportunity to audition them at Gryphon headquarters and their enthusiastic response and encouragement have been the impetus behind the decision to occasionally make them commercially available.

It was this unique process that ultimately led to the release of the Gryphon Reference One power amplifier and, later, the four-piece Poseidon reference monitor loudspeaker system.

Most recently, Gryphon engineers have been granted the rare luxury of developing a preamplifier/power amplifier combination unrestrained by considerations of cost, size, weight, appearance or production deadlines. Their design brief was simple: make it the best that it can possibly be.

To celebrate Gryphon's first 25 years, Rasmussen decided to make a commercial version of these laboratory units available in a strictly limited edition, now officially dubbed the Gryphon Mephisto power amplifier and Gryphon Pandora preamplifier.

Pandora's Two Boxes

In Greek mythology, Pandora was created at Zeus' command as the first woman on earth. Her name means "the all-gifted", because the gods endowed her with numerous precious talents. From Aphrodite, she received beauty, divine grace, charm and harmony; from Apollo, the gift of music; from Hermes, the power of subtle persuasion; from Athena, soul and from the Graces, love, tenderness, beauty, kindness, pleasure, creativity, artistry, and sensuality.

We have captured these virtues in the dual-chassis Gryphon Pandora preamplifier with total isolation of audio circuitry and power supplies on separate chassis to protect the audio signal from any interference.

The dual mono aspect of the design is taken to the practical extreme with separate detachable power cords.

Thanks to creative engineering and unbridled freedom in its design and execution, Gryphon Pandora is empowered to reveal more of the recorded source than any previous preamplifier. Only the finest components, selected for both technical and audio parameters, have been implemented, including Japanese Takman resistors and Charcroft Z-Foil resistors. Signal transmission between preamp and power amp takes place in fully balanced mode for low signal loss and minimal distortion.

Pandora also marks the introduction of a newly developed single-ended Class A input buffer stage consisting of only two transistors and a single resistor to maintain the transparency, speed and openness of the audio signal.

In Control

Conceptually, a preamplifier serves two primary functions, traffic control and volume control. Gryphon Pandora dispenses with convention-

al tone controls, balance knobs, mono switches and other superfluous circuitry to reduce interchannel and signal path coloration to an absolute minimum.

When in pristine condition, contacts in the signal path have little impact on sound quality, but this condition rarely lasts for long. In order to prevent signal loss through oxidation, all relays incorporate gold-plated contact surfaces. Source selector relays (three balanced inputs, two single-ended, one tape loop) are also hermetically sealed to prevent the accretion of grime on contact surfaces. Relays ensure the shortest possible signal path and are subject to negligible wear.

The Gryphon Pandora volume control is a microprocessor-controlled 85-step attenuator for extreme precision in setting the desired listening level. Select resistors and relays ensure long life and perfect matching at all levels. The front panel volume control is a heavy wheel with double ball-bearings for smooth running.

Control Menu

The outward simplicity of the Gryphon Pandora conceals a variety of custom adjustments that are readily accessible without cluttering the front panel. For an exceptional level of convenience and user-friendliness with no negative impact on audio performance, Gryphon Pandora is equipped with a microprocessor-controlled menu of practical features: input naming, max level setting, start level setting, left/right channel balance (6 dB in 1 dB increments), input level matching, fixed-level AV throughput, display brightness (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, Off), Green Bias setup and default restore.

Green Bias

When connected via Gryphon's proprietary Green Bias Link to a Gryphon power amplifier with Green Bias function, Gryphon ▶



影音 SUPER AV 極品
影音極品器材大賞
SUPER AV AWARDS

Outstanding Premier
Overall Performance Awards-2012
綜合實力-尊貴獎

Preamplifier
高級解碼式擴大器
GRYPHON
Pandora

Gryphon Pandora

- True Dual Mono configuration
- Fully discrete pure Class A with ultra-short signal path
- 2 x 90,000 microFarad capacity banks
- Ultra-wideband 3 MHz frequency response
- Zero negative feedback
- DC-coupling with servo-control
- Isolated power supply for non-audio circuits
- Extensive mechanical decoupling
- Extensive local voltage regulation
- Big-wheel, ball-bearing, microprocessor-controlled 85-step relay volume attenuator featuring Charcroft Z-Foil Audio ultra precision resistors and ultra low capacitance relays for best sonic performance
- New, high-speed, discrete single-ended Class A input buffer developed for best possible sonic performance
- Select premium-grade components, including Takman Audio resistors
- Minimal internal wiring
- Military spec. double-sided up to 70µm copper printed circuit boards
- Two separate custom-made C-core transformers, one for each channel
- Gold-plated input-isolating relays

- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated Gryphon XLR sockets for three balanced sources and two outputs
- Gold-plated Gryphon phono sockets with Teflon insulation for two inputs and one Tape output
- Optional integrated, Gryphon Phono Stage or Legato Legacy balanced RIAA module
- Fixed-level AV throughput for uncompromising integration with surround systems
- Microprocessor-controlled menu functions
- Adjustable channel balance, source level matching, start-up and maximum level
- Green Bias control for Gryphon power amplifiers
- Graphical Vacuum Fluorescent Display
- Backlit touch-sensitive front panel controls
- Adjustable display illumination (High, Medium, Low, Off)
- Non-magnetic, non-resonant aluminium cabinets
- 12 V DC link input and output
- Flash memory upgrades via PC or key-fob
- Infrared remote control
- Standby power consumption <1W
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark

Gryphon Pandora Preamplifier and Mephisto Power Amplifier Review Stereo Prestige & Image, no. 67, 2012, France

In any case, in every musical parameter, these devices must be regarded as the absolute, inescapable reference. You don't have to take our word for it, but here's a piece of advice: Once in your life, you should experience these components that challenge so many preconceived notions.



"Once in your life, you should experience these components that challenge so many preconceived notions."

Stereo Prestige +
Image, France

Find all reviews on
www.gryphon-audio.dk

► Pandore can control available Class A output, reducing power consumption and running the amp slightly cooler for less critical use. This feature adjusts the amplifier bias in relation to the preamplifier volume control for exactly the right amount of Class A power on demand as needed with massive instantaneous power reserves ready and waiting.

Power Supply

With twin 90,000 microFarad capacitor banks, the Gryphon Pandora power supply is comparable to what is found in many integrated amps or power amplifiers. The overkill power supply ensures rock-solid control, headroom and signal purity under any imaginable conditions. In addition, the Pandora power supply can power external components such as the Gryphon Legato Legacy phono stage, both as a stand-alone unit or as modules installed in the Pandora.

Beyond Compromise

For a product that was never intended to see the light of day, extraordinary attention to detail and innovation have been lavished on the Gryphon Pandora.

Precisely because it was conceived unencumbered by thoughts of price, spousal approval and other niceties that limit the imagination, Pandora is uniquely revealing of the performance of source components, loudspeakers and interconnects.

Gryphon Pandora offers a tonally natural musical presence, a rich, varied palette of colours grounded with appropriate weight and body and set in the original acoustic space with pinpoint dimensional accuracy.

This is the level of performance we demand in our listening rooms and now we are pleased to share it with the world.



Gryphon Athena

Dual Mono Preamplifier



With an all too predictable regularity, High End brands occasionally announce a proud return to their “roots,” apparently blissfully unaware that such an assertion is tantamount to a confession that they had in fact lost their way and for a time abandoned those precious roots.

Indeed, many of these former High End giants have found themselves reduced to desperate attempts at pandering to the lowest common denominator with surround sound products or accessories for portable players intended for the playback of heavily compressed, no-fi music downloads via ear plug headphones.

After a quarter of a century, Gryphon Audio Designs feels no inclination to “get back to our roots,” for the simple reason that we have never lost sight of them and never strayed from

them. From day one, we have defined and identified ourselves as purveyors of state of the art equipment for high performance stereo music reproduction.

This is still our mission. This remains our sole raison d’être.

Accessible High End

While the design and construction of high performance home audio components that cost more than a luxury automobile is an art unto itself, Gryphon has a proud legacy of taking up the equally great challenge of making the expertise and experience accumulated in the creation of our ultimate statement components available in somewhat more accessible products.

The Gryphon Athena preamplifier is a new, classic example of Gryphon’s mastery of this art, as we take the valuable lessons learned in the development of the state of the art Mirage and Pandora preamplifiers

and apply them to a single-chassis unit to rival the very best from other brands.

Having established a full understanding of the purpose and behaviour of each individual part of the whole through parts and technologies developed and refined for these uncompromising research platforms, our designers have allowed that abundance of acquired knowledge to trickle down to the Athena preamplifier for optimised performance, simplicity and unity of purpose with a single, well defined objective: musical purity.

While most preamplifiers are laden with toys, tricks and gimmicks that squander money and detract from the absolute sound quality available from the device, unnecessary circuitry, wiring and switches have



been banished from the signal path of the Gryphon Athena in the interest of ultimate fidelity.

Component quality, layout and build quality are all to the very highest standard, including the microprocessor-controlled 50-step relay volume control based on Welwyn Metal Foil ultra-precision resistors, ultra low capacitance relays with hermetically sealed gold-plated contacts.

Extensive set-up and control functions are accessible via the front panel or the attractively minimalistic remote control.

For Your Every Musical Need

The ultra-wide frequency bandwidth of the Gryphon Athena ensures perfect phase characteristics which are essential to correct soundstage reproduction.

Among its many musical virtues, the speed and agility of the Gryphon Athena must be singled out along with its seamless coherence in the time domain. These virtues are immediately perceived as exceptional authority and musical realism, as Athena renders individual voices and instruments with consummate ease and control within the overall emotional context of the total musical event.

Gryphon Athena Review

Haute Fidélité magazine, France, July, 2010

“From the first phonostage built by Flemming Rasmussen, the engineers never deviate from these fundamental precepts in the service of our greater listening pleasure.”

Find all reviews on
www.gryphon-audio.dk

Gryphon Athena

- Dual Mono configuration
- Infrared remote control
- Zero negative feedback
- Schottky power supply diodes
- Microprocessor-controlled 50-step volume attenuator for exact level setting
- Ultra-short signal path
- No internal wiring
- Flexible menu-controlled set-up
- Extensive mechanical decoupling
- Double-sided printed circuit boards with 70 µm copper
- PCB-mounted gold-plated Neutric XLR sockets for output and 1 balanced input
- PCB-mounted gold-plated phono sockets for 4 single-ended inputs and 1 single-ended output
- Fixed-level AV throughput option for seamless integration with surround preamplifier
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with 2 lines and 50 characters
- Adjustable display lighting with five settings
- Optional MM/MC phonostage
- EU CE approval
- Designed and assembled in Denmark
- Standby power consumption <1 W





Gryphon Legato Legacy

- Selectable MC input impedance from 10 Ohm to 47 kOhm
- Custom impedance load option
- Selectable gain
- MM or MC input
- Extremely low noise
- Dual mono configuration
- Fully balanced circuit, a Gryphon phonostage innovation as early as 1994
- Fully discrete circuit
- Select premium-grade components
- Swiss LEMO connectors
- Zero negative feedback
- Short signal path with no internal wiring
- Available as stand-alone unit or as integrated modules in Gryphon Pandora preamplifier and some discontinued Gryphon preamplifiers
- Dual mono external power supplies
- Custom-made C-core transformers
- DC coupling
- AC mains filtering
- Fully sealed double-sided mil spec PC boards
- 75 μ m copper traces
- Made in Denmark

Gryphon Legato Legacy

Dual mono, fully balanced Phonostage



Who would have thought just five or ten years ago that the venerable LP might actually outlive the compact disc? For many audiophiles, despite the massive digital hype of the past three decades, the LP remains by a significant margin the finest high fidelity medium ever offered for home use. Its comprehensive catalogue of titles will never be rivaled by the compact disc, which already appears to be on its way to a carefully orchestrated obsolescence.

In spite of the theoretically perfect measurements of even the most basic digital audio format, we at Gryphon simply hear more music when listening to the LP. This is a good thing, considering that the number of LP's released during the course of the last half a century will never be matched by the CD in its brief lifespan.

In 1994, Gryphon stunned the audiophile community with the Gryphon Orestes phonostage, the world's first fully balanced MC preamp. Perhaps equally surprised by the fact that we chose to do it all as by how well it was done, the audio press had only the highest praise and admiration for the Orestes, "Utterly convincing. With a delightful firmness and wonderful resolution, it enhanced the performance of one MC cartridge after another. It offers earth-shaking bass and beguiling, airy highs." (Audio, Germany).

At the turn of the millennium, Gryphon re-invented LP playback once again with the Legato phonostage. The word "legato" is from the Italian for "bound together." In classical music, it is a composer's instruction to play in a smooth, flowing manner without detached notes.

Briefly discontinued, the Gryphon Legato phonostage has been revived by popular demand in the Legato Legacy version to harvest the fruits of our explorations into the latest circuit topologies, low-noise component breakthroughs and power supply innovations in the service of the vast body of music that will continue to enlighten the lives of dedicated music lovers for years to come.

Fully balanced from input to output, with no op-amps or IC's, the Gryphon Legato Legacy is available in modular or stand-alone versions. The two versions are identical with regard to circuitry and sound quality.

When installed in the Gryphon Pandora preamplifier, the modular Legato Legacy is powered by the preamp power supply. Legato Legacy modules can be factory-fitted or added at a later date.

The stand-alone Legato Legacy is a stylish slim line cabinet that can be driven by its own power supply (identical to the power supply developed for the massively over-the-top Pandora preamp) or by your Gryphon preamplifier's power supply.

In both configurations, the sensitive low-level signal is fully shielded in a dual mono, RF-free environment with no internal wiring, fully sealed PCB's specified to the highest standards, zero negative feedback and DC coupling.

Designed to fully exploit the inherently balanced nature of the phono cartridge, the Legato Legacy phonostage employs the finest balanced LEMO connectors. Impedance loading is selected via a high quality, Swiss precision attenuator which can be bypassed once the

owner has identified the optimal load.

Critical components are sourced from suppliers with extensive experience in building to the tight tolerances specified for military or medical equipment. Final assembly and testing are conducted in-house.

Component quality, mechanical construction and cosmetic design fulfil the high expectations that come with the Gryphon name. A classic example of Flemming E. Rasmussen styling, Legato Legacy exudes pride of ownership and stands as an ideal partner for the new Pandora reference preamplifier both in design and performance.

Dedicated to the music lover who continues to seek out the countless musical treasures available on LP, the Gryphon Legato Legacy phonostage is the key to all the power, purity and subtlety of expression captured for posterity on black vinyl.

*"The cleanliness of the layout along with the dual-mono construction instill great confidence that Gryphon Audio has addressed all sources of the noise that's so detrimental to analog playback, especially with low-output moving-coil cartridges."
theaudiobeat.com. Aug. 2013*

Gryphon Mirage

Control Amplifier

A Mirage is an optical illusion that deceives the eye into believing that you are somewhere that you are not. There could be no more fitting name for the Gryphon Mirage control amplifier, designed to create an audio illusion that deceives the ear into believing that you are somewhere that you are not, specifically, in the presence of living, breathing musicians.

The Reality behind the Mirage

Sometimes a first glance can tell you everything you need to know. In the case of the Gryphon Mirage, the sleek elegance of its distinctive exterior with detachable control section and magic wand remote suggests daring, innovation, dedication and a unique vision that is most definitely not a mirage.

The boldly re-imagined remote says it all. Useful real-world functions (On/Standby, Mute, Input Selection and Volume) put all the control you need at your fingertips, trimmed down to the essentials, with none of

the daunting clutter and confusion of most plastic-fantastic remotes.

Conceived as functional sculpture, Gryphon Mirage is worthy of a place in the most sophisticated interior. Uniquely, its modular configuration allows the design-conscious Mirage owner multiple installation options.

The integrated control section/preamplifier can be proudly displayed together or the preamplifier can be concealed to communicate wirelessly with the futuristic control section or, finally, both sections can be concealed and controlled by the provocatively styled Mirage remote.

Audio excellence re-invented, Gryphon Mirage is designed with a singular vision for people who care by people who care.

Full Home Automation Compatibility

We respectfully offer the Gryphon Mirage to the discerning audience that aspires to the ultimate listening experience, but refuses to fill their homes with stereo systems that resemble the cockpit of a space shuttle and require advanced engineering degrees to operate.

To achieve this goal, Gryphon Mirage fuses die-hard audiophile appeal with carefully crafted ergonomics for practical, intuitive operation that won't put off the novice user who wants home entertainment with no fuss and no bother. Initiating an age of intelligent audio, Gryphon has collaborated with Crestron and AMX to make the Mirage fully compatible with home automation systems from these industry leaders. The necessary software can be purchased with the Mirage or at a later time.

When fully integrated in a home automation system, Gryphon Mirage can become the central hub in your whole-house audio system with music distributed anywhere in the home at the push of a button. In keeping with this extreme level of convenience, The Gryphon Mirage user interface allows the user to program personal preferences including assigning names to source components, setting maximum volume

level to protect the system and adjusting the brightness of the display or turning it off completely.

Mirage offers useful, practical features to meet your real-world needs. Your authorized Gryphon dealer is trained in the installation and set-up of these menu functions and can assist in configuring your unit.

20 Years in the Making

Throughout two decades in the pole position on the High End audio Formula 1 circuit, Gryphon Audio Designs has consistently combined ultra-High End performance and intuitive, back-to-basics functionality for the audio purist with extraordinary refinement and originality in design and craftsmanship to appeal to the audiophile and non-audiophile equally.

With the Mirage, Gryphon's founder and designer, Flemming E. Rasmussen envisioned an entirely new breed of audio product; a superb control amplifier capable of Formula 1 performance, but in a "street legal" execution cloaked in breakthrough industrial design.

We created the Gryphon Mirage so that the discerning owner could have it both ways: the Mirage as contemporary design to be proudly invisible, unintrusive source of countless hours of listening pleasure.

No Sacrifice, No Compromise

Gryphon Mirage is a work of art that does not relegate function to a secondary position. Gryphon Mirage is also a high performance audio tool that just happens to be drop-dead gorgeous.

The unconventional design challenges pre-conceived notions on the appearance of audio components. Gryphon Mirage is high-tech sculpture, not a soulless machine.

The Gryphon Mirage is the perfect partner for the award-winning Gryphon Mikado compact disc player and the Gryphon range of power amplifiers.



Gryphon Mirage

- True Dual Mono configuration
- Pure Class A operation
- 63,000 microFarad capacity
- Ultra-wideband 3 MHz frequency response
- Zero negative feedback
- DC-coupling with servo-controlled isolated power supply for non-audio circuits
- Extensive mechanical decoupling
- Extensive local voltage regulation
- Microprocessor-controlled 50-step relay volume attenuator for best sonic performance featuring
- Vishay Bulk Metal Foil ultra-precision resistors and ultra low capacitance relays
- Fully discrete circuitry using Ultra-short signal path
- Select premium-grade components
- Minimal internal wiring
- Military spec. double-sided up to 70µm copper printed circuit boards
- Two separate Holmgren toroidal transformers, one for each channel
- Gold-plated input-isolating relays

- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated PCB-mounted Swiss Neutric XLR sockets for three balanced sources and two outputs
- Gold-plated PCB-mounted phono sockets with Teflon insulation for 2 inputs and one Tape output
- Wireless communication between Mirage Control unit and Mirage Preamplifier
- Fixed-level AV throughput for uncompromising integration with surround systems
- Microprocessor-controlled menu functions
- Adjustable channel balance, source level matching, start-up and maximum level
- Green Bias control for Gryphon Power Amplifiers
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with 2 lines and 50 characters
- Adjustable display Lighting (High, Medium, Low or Off)
- Non-magnetic, non-resonant aluminum cabinets
- AMX or Crestron home automation System control software (sold separately)
- 12VDC link input and output
- Flash memory upgrades via PC or key-fob/Infrared remote control
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark

Gryphon Mirage and Colosseum Ultra Audio SELECT Components

"If you have the money, seek them out for audition, even if you have to travel across land and sea to do so. You'll be richly rewarded by the experience, in the ways that only great art can reward."

UltraAudio.com, February 2011

Gryphon Mirage

"The Mirage has an utterly neutral character making it easy to match with other electronics"

New Audiophile, China

Gryphon Mirage Preamplifier

"The Mirage is an object of astonishing beauty. Pure of form, a smooth, perfectly crafted and masterly finished exterior"

Haute Fidelite, France

Gryphon Colosseum and Mirage

Product of the Year 2011

Aesthetics and Sound Award
www.soundstage.com. Jan. 2012



The All-new House of Gryphon



6moons, august 2012

If you've got five-figure funds to invest in amplification, it needn't always be about a pre/power combination. Sure that would be reassuringly 'official' and physical separation of preamplification (mostly attenuation really) and power amplification lowers parts density and potential interference. Monos go even further with dedicated power supplies per channel. With its biometric data Gryphon's bigger dual-mono integrated - we reviewed the smaller Atilla about 18 months ago - makes for rather official rack fill. There's 250wpc into 8 ohms of muscle mass, 30kg of fighting weight and beefy 48 x 21 x 46cm WxHxD size to turn this winged dragon into an unquestionably fully grown monster amp.

HiFi+, UK, January 2008

"The remote is one of the very best I have tried, a long, slim metal design that enables you to get where you want to be quickly and completely intuitively. It is an object lesson in uncluttered clarity and it makes the amplifier a joy to control."

Lyd og Bilde, Norway, April, 2007

"Spectacular design and equally spectacular sound quality. An ultra-cool, potent amplifier for demanding loudspeakers and demanding listeners."

Haute Fidélité, France

"The Danish Gryphon products have been absent in France for several years. We are very pleased that they now reappear. Diablo is the manufacturer's most powerful integrated amplifier. It offers wonderful music reproduction, based on a flawless topology and implementation of full-fledged technical solutions."

HiFi Choice, UK, November, 2006

"Sounds like God's own stereo."

Australian Hi-Fi, March/April, 2006

"Ultimately, Gryphon's Diablo is a contradiction in terms, because the sound it makes is truly Angelic."

Image Hi Fi of German

"It sounds so nice that it would surprise me if there would be no sin - a truly devilish delight!"

Haute Fidelite, France

The Gryphon Diablo receives best possible award "REFERENCE" in France and highest achievable score.

HiFi Stars, Germany, December 2011

"The Diablo soars above the rest"
"The Diablo offers its owner a lifetime of pride"

6moons, Sept. 2010

"Is Gryphon Diablo the best amplifier in the world?" It is with much pride that we at Gryphon read the amazing review of the Diablo by 6moons.com. It affirms that the Diablo might be the finest integrated amplifier ever made. The reviewer, Frederic Beudot, goes even further by saying "The Diablo was simply the best amplifier I've ever had at home at any price"

Find all reviews on www.gryphon-audio.dk



Gryphon Diablo

Dual Mono Integrated Amplifier

Third generation heir to Gryphon's two decades of accumulated knowledge and experience that brought respect and credibility to the integrated amplifier, the Gryphon Diablo offers High End performance from a stunning single chassis designed with bold strokes to symbolize its powerful, yet refined sound.

Enthusiastic reviews and awards from around the world confirm our success in creating an integrated amplifier capable of holding its own head-to-head with vastly more expensive separate components.

Conservatively rated at 2 x 250W (8Ω), 2 x 500W (4 Ω) and 2 x 800W (2Ω) – the Diablo is a true dual mono design for minimal cross-channel interaction. The monumental, sculpted exterior contains all the wattage you'll ever need, backed up by virtually limitless current capability.

Gryphon Diablo is a bottomless source of pure, stable power to drive any loudspeaker with speed, precision and authority.

The stylish solid metal remote control provides easy access to frequently used functions,

including five levels of display brightness. Via the remote or front panel, key menu functions can be customized for your convenience. Inputs can be named (up to 8 characters), Fixed Maximum Level and Fixed Start Level can be set to protect your amplifier and loudspeakers and an AV Throughput option can re-configure the power amplifier section for use with a separate surround preamplifier.

For the discerning audiophile who would like to explore the possibilities of surround audio without sacrificing ultimate two-channel performance, the Gryphon Diablo embraces

surround connectivity with original features that enable seamless integration with a surround system, while maintaining the unblemished integrity of your stereo sources.

The Gryphon Diablo puts all its ample power reserves at your beck and call to vividly re-create the dynamics of a live music event in your own living space. Dynamic variations, the lifeblood of music, convey the ebb and flow of emotion.

The Gryphon Diablo takes you straight to the heart of the music.



Gryphon Diablo

- Intuitively simple touch panel user interface and software based menu display
- Custom designed microprocessor-controlled 50-step relay volume attenuator with no mechanical components, digital circuitry or opamps
- True Dual Mono configuration with zero negative feedback
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal internal wiring
- Optional MM/MC phonostage module
- Flash memory upgrades via PC
- Designed and built in Denmark

Gryphon Atilla

- True Dual Mono configuration
- Stylish remote control in solid aluminium for easy access to frequently used functions
- Microprocessor-controlled 50-step relay volume attenuator for best sonic performance
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with 2 lines and 50 characters
- Adjustable display lighting
- Ready for installation of optional MM/MC phonostage module
- Flash memory upgrades
- Designed and built in Denmark



“This is one of the very finest integrated amplifiers available.”

Hi-Fi Choice, UK, January, 2010

Enjoythemusic.com. February 2011

Gryphon Atilla, Scorpio and Mojo:

“The Gryphon Audio Design system, like a race-winning Formula 1, has won over my heart because all the parts are finely tuned and come together to allow audiophile and music lovers alike to achieve musical excellence”



Hi-Fi Choice, UK, January, 2010

Gryphon Atilla:

Compact, moulded remote with a four-way rocker switch.

“It is beautifully made and the unit is anatomically designed to nestle snugly in the palm of the hand.”

Gryphon Atilla & Scorpio
“State of the Art”
Alta Fidelidad, Spain, Jan. 2011

German hifi magazine LP

No trace of Nordic coolness in the small Gryphon amplifier. The image is rather determined by temperament and a buoyant lightness. Excitingly styled, great sounding amplifier”

Hi-Fi i Muzyka, Poland, Jan. 2010

“Even this entry level 100 watt Gryphon amplifier is serious competition to respected pre and power combinations from manufacturers such as Krell McIntosh, Audio Research, MBL, Pass and Levinson”



Haute Fidélité, France, Oct. 2011

“Best Buy”

Gryphon Atilla has been reviewed by Patrice Philippe of Haute Fidélité and he concludes his review: “For a lot of people, owning a Gryphon remains a dream; with the Atilla, given the sound quality and the build quality, which are impeccable, with the price of 8250 euros this “small” Gryphon is not for every budget, but is at least for most passionate fans, who will never regret their investment. We are not absolutely sure of the absolute linearity of Atilla, but we are certain that listening is a pure joy. We recommend without reservation this entry level model of the Danish manufacturer now fully represented in our country”

Timber, Dynamic, Image, Transparency and Value are all 5/5.

monoandstereo.com - October 08, 2012

Atilla is not only a remarkable successor to Gryphon past legends, but it brings something new to audiophiles and music lovers at large. It is the integrated amplifier for high-end audio domestic realms. Grace, power and sense of music and its ability to involve and seduce will keep the interest of many happy owners for years to come.

As already written, Atilla is among the very best solid state integrations I had pleasure of hearing in 25 some years venture through high-end audio society. It is a product worth keeping and more than serious component for both surgical audio reviewing/testing and late night escapes into enjoyment of music.



Find all reviews on
www.gryphon-audio.dk

Gryphon Atilla

Dual Mono Integrated Amplifier

Gryphon proudly introduces the latest refinement of the integrated amplifier, the Atilla, bringing legendary Gryphon performance and styling to a new level of affordable cost and minimal complexity with 2 x 100W (8Ω), 2 x 200W (4Ω) of the purest Gryphon audio power.

Gryphon founder and design supremo Flemming E. Rasmussen's background in the fine arts as a skilled painter shines through in the understated elegance and forceful lines of the Atilla's satin black, brushed aluminium chassis and gleaming black acrylic faceplate, prominently featuring an illuminated Gryphon logo when powered up. There are no rotary controls to disturb the clean lines simplicity of the uncluttered fascia.

The massive chassis with recessed heatsinks rests firmly on two front damping feet and a single rear conical spike to ward off mechanical vibration. Redefining what can be expected from an integrated amplifier, the Gryphon Atilla represents a new benchmark for audio performance in its class with a relaxed sense of ease, lush elegance

and deep musical insight that justify once again Gryphon's reputation as the true music lover's audio brand of choice.

Combining a superb level of fit and finish, exceptional audio finesse and a sense of unlimited power all on a single chassis, the Gryphon Atilla integrated amplifier is essentially two independent mono devices for reduced crosstalk and minimal interchannel interaction. The short signal path employs extra thick copper traces and an absolute minimum of wiring. The lavish display and extensive control circuits are powered independently via a separate power supply in order to eliminate any risk of noise contamination. Bringing audiophile performance to a new level of affordability and ease of use, Gryphon Atilla is your gateway to a new total musical experience,

with unrestricted dynamic range, delicate intonation and ambience and an ultra-transparent, tightly focused stereo image with abundant air and space surrounding the performers.

Gryphon Atilla delivers deep bass with rock-steady control as it lays out a huge, three-dimensional soundstage that must be heard to be believed.



Gryphon Kalliope

Digital to Analogue Converter



In any audio system, there are certain points along the signal path that are more crucial than others. These are the intersections where the signal is converted from one form of energy into another. Such transformations occur when the needle of a phono cartridge traverses the micro-grooves of a vinyl record, converting kinetic energy into an electrical signal. At the opposite end of the signal path, loudspeakers must transform electrical input into acoustic output.

But perhaps the most critical transformation of all is the conversion of the output of digital sources into an analogue signal, ideally without loss or distortion of any kind. Despite the lofty claims of many manufacturers, what is lost or changed at this point can never be recovered or restored.

In acknowledgment of the on-going refinement of digital audio sources and the rapid evolution of high-resolution digital audio formats, Gryphon Audio Designs now presents the Gryphon Kalliope digital to analogue converter to stand as the gateway that conveys the musical signal from one domain to the next in utterly pristine condition.

Three Reasons Why Bits Are Not Just Bits

The well-worn phrase "Bits is bits" encapsulates the widespread misconception that any reasonably constructed digital system will result in "Pure, Perfect Sound Forever," in the lamentable promotional slogan coined by the inventors of the compact disc.

1.) Digital audio is not a simple one-dimensional row of numbers, where all that is required is to keep the correct numbers in the correct order. In fact, it is a data stream of numbers flowing through time. And the right number at the wrong time is (almost) as bad as the wrong number.

Gryphon Kalliope ensures effective correction/prevention of timing errors (jitter) using sophisticated circuit topology and exclusive, custom-built components.

2.) Following digital to analogue conversion, an analogue filter is required to remove high frequency noise. The deleterious side effects of

a typical steep-slope "brickwall" filter include temporal smearing, energy loss, compromised resolution and reduced transparency.



Gryphon Kalliope employs advanced technologies and an innovative, minimalist single-component filter with no adverse audible impact.

3.) Advocates of the “bits is bits” attitude tend to ignore the fact that at the end of all digital signal processing there is an analogue stage.

The circuit design, component selection, power supply and layout of this stage are all just as critical now in the digital era as they ever were in the analogue age.

Gryphon Kalliope draws on decades of experience in the design and construction of some of the finest analogue audio systems the world has ever known.

Digital Pioneers

Kalliope is far from Gryphon’s first foray into the digital arena. Throughout the digital era, Gryphon Audio Designs have stood for major innovations, paving the way for others to follow. In 1998, Gryphon introduced the world to the sonic benefits of 88.2 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion in the CDP-1 CD player, the world’s first implementation of this advanced technology.

Gryphon Adagio, launched in 2001, and Gryphon Mikado, released in 2003, upgraded to 24-bit/96 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion, preserving linearity for vastly reduced distortion and noise.

In 2008, the celebrated Gryphon Mikado Signature CD player took our cornerstone philosophies of dual mono and fully symmetrical balanced operation where no one had gone before - into the digital domain, employing two stereo DAC’s per channel in full dual differential mode running 32-bit/192 kHz. This

configuration drastically lowers the digital noise floor and contributes to the expansive soundstage and sharply focused stereo image of digital audio by Gryphon.

Now, with selectable 32-bit/210 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion and a dedicated ESS SABRE ES9018 32-bit D/A converter per channel, incorporating eight individual D/A converters in Dual Differential coupling, the Gryphon Kalliope DAC builds on the brand’s unique heritage and continues to lead the way.

Stability and Control

Gryphon Kalliope reaps the full benefits of Gryphon’s uncompromising design philosophy, including strict dual mono configuration, minimal internal wiring, fully isolated separate power supplies for analogue, digital and control/display circuitry and exclusive, custom components such as precision crystal oscillators and toroidal transformers.

To ensure unlimited, pure power to all stages, transformer windings for digital and analogue sections are physically separated and the four-layer printed circuit board employs a 70 µm copper trace to ensure optimal grounding and power distribution as well as signal transfer.

For maximum control and stability, each analogue channel in Gryphon Kalliope employs a dedicated custom-built 65 VA toroidal transformer and 34,000 microFarad power capacitor banks. Built from the finest discrete components, Kalliope eschews capacitor banks based on a few large capacitors, in favour of parallel-coupled clusters of smaller, high-performance caps (a total of 28), for lower equivalent series resistance.

Kalliope’s substantial, heavily regulated high-current power supplies would not be out of place in a typical integrated amplifier.

Direct Stream Digital

In addition to PCM sources all the way up to 32 bits and 384 kHz sampling frequency, Gryphon Kalliope is among the select few digital to an-

alogue converters that is fully compatible with the DSD (Direct Stream Digital) audio format.

Unlike the mainstream PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) standard employed for CD, WAV files, etc., DSD employs Pulse Density Modulation and a sample rate of up to 6.144 MHz.

DSD was the core of the now largely dormant Super Audio CD format, but lives on in the form of an ever expanding library of downloadable audio files widely regarded as the highest resolution presently available to the consumer.

Note: DSD files on an SACD cannot be accessed for playback via an external DAC due to copyright protection issues.

User Interface

For convenience and intuitive ease of use, Gryphon Kalliope’s functions can be accessed via remote control or soft-touch buttons on the front panel: On/Standby, Mute On/Off, Input Selection, Digital Filter selection, Sample Rate Conversion On/Off, Phase +/- . The remote also includes adjustment of display brightness (100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, Off).

For PCM playback, a fast or slow linear phase non-dispersive digital filter can be selected. For DSD playback via USB, a 50, 60, or 70 Hz Infinite Impulse Response (IIR) digital roll-off filter can be selected.

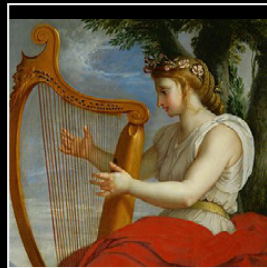
Kalliope is fitted with a phase inverter, because some source components, power amplifiers and even recordings may inadvertently invert the phase of the signal. Kalliope allows the owner to correct this error while seated at the main listening position.

The Kalliope front panel menu provides control of additional features, including naming of sources, default display brightness, word clock synchronization for use with an external word clock, output attenuation of 0 dB (Off) or -6 dB to match levels to other sources and a user-selectable Auto Standby mode that can be set to force power-down after 30 minutes, 60 minutes, 2 hours or 4 hours. A Reset function immediately restores all default settings. ▶



Gryphon Kalliope

- Dedicated ESS SABRE ES9018 32-bit D/A converter for each channel
- Each ES9018 incorporates eight individual D/A converters in Dual Differential coupling for optimal performance
- USB input compatible with following audio formats via PC/MAC: PCM: 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192, 352.8 and 384 kHz, up to 32 bits
- DSD via USB (DoP): 2.822, 3.072, 5.644 and 6.144 MHz
- BNC and XLR inputs compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 64, 88.2, 96, 176.4 and 192 kHz, up to 24 bits
- User-selectable PCM and DSD digital roll-off filters
- User-selectable asynchronous PCM sample rate conversion
- Temperature-compensated, ultra-low jitter crystal oscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- Total galvanic isolation of PC/ MAC sources for optimal noise rejection
- Balanced 110 Ohm XLR AES/EBU input
- Three single-ended 75 Ohm BNC S/PDIF inputs.
- Balanced 110 Ohm XLR AES/EBU output for de-jittered signal from selected input
- Galvanic isolation of BNC and XLR inputs for minimal jitter
- 75 Ohm BNC connector for optional external word clock
- Modular digital audio sections for possible future upgrades
- True Class A, fully discrete analogue circuitry with zero negative feedback
- First-order PCM analogue filters and second-order DSD analogue filters with silvered Mica capacitors
- Analogue output stages with discrete, ultra-low noise +/- 25VDC regulated voltage supplies for best THD and noise suppression
- Discrete, ultra-low noise power supply for analogue section of ES9018 DAC
- Comprehensive noise regulation of all digital circuits
- Custom-built 65 VA toroidal transformer for each analogue channel
- 34,000 microFarad power capacitor banks for each analogue channel
- True Dual Mono configuration
- Balanced XLR analogue outputs and single-ended phono outputs
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal internal wiring
- Four-layer 70 µm thick copper trace PCB's
- Personalised naming of each input
- Vacuum Fluorescent Display with variable illumination
- No drivers required for LINUX or MAC OSX
- Driver available for Windows XP/Vista/7/8
- Automatic standby mode with user-selectable interval
- Standby power consumption less than 0.5W in accordance with EU regulations
- 12V link in/out
- Infrared remote control
- EU CE approval
- Designed and built in Denmark



KALLIOPE

(a.k.a. Calliope, meaning “beautiful voice”) is the eldest of the Muses, goddesses of music, song and dance in Greek mythology. Kalliope is the goddess of epic poetry and eloquence.

► The easily legible Vacuum Fluorescent Display provides confirmation of current settings.

Well Connected

In addition to carefully executed, galvanically isolated digital inputs (three 75 Ohm BNC and one 110 Ohm XLR) to minimise jitter and noise, Gryphon Kalliope is also fitted with a 110 Ohm XLR digital output which makes the de-jittered signal from the selected input available to other equipment.

Gryphon Kalliope eliminates phono plug S/PDIF connections, because the BNC connector is the only way to ensure a true 75 Ohm impedance for optimal data transfer.

For increasingly popular computer music sources, Gryphon Kalliope incorporates a state of the art, bit-perfect, asynchronous and galvanically isolated USB input, capable of full 32-bit/384 kHz data transmission. Because Kalliope is a native Class Two USB device, simple installation of appropriate drivers is necessary for PC users. Drivers are pre-installed on Macs.

Music playback via conventional synchronous USB is a one-way connection that uses the computer's bus frame rate as its clock source, resulting in highly unstable timing. Adaptive USB is marginally better, as it allows the receiver chip to adapt to the drifting signal by constantly adjusting its own frequency. However, both methods introduce substantial levels of jitter.

With asynchronous USB transfer mode (unrelated to asynchronous sample rate conversion), the Gryphon Kalliope master clock is not synchronized to a clock in the computer. Instead, the Kalliope's high-precision internal clock controls the data stream from the computer to a buffer near the DAC, eliminating a major source of timing errors.

Input signals sync to one of two clocks depending on the signal's sample frequency, a 22.5792 MHz clock for multiples of 44.1 kHz and a 24.5760 MHz clock for multiples of 48 kHz. Operating at true multiples

of the signal's original sampling frequency ensures far more accurate timing.

While Gryphon Kalliope is fitted with a 75 Ohm BNC connector for optional synchronisation via an external word clock signal, the Kalliope's internal, independent, specially designed, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators with accuracy better than 5 parts per million address crucial timing issues so effectively that its superb clock-extraction circuitry removes all traces of clock jitter and other clocking artefacts.

Asynchronous Sample Rate Conversion

Gryphon Kalliope offers the owner the option of upsampling PCM sources with a native resolution of up to 32-bit/192 kHz to 32-bit/210 kHz. Clock rate conversion up to 40 MHz in the DAC minimises jitter and eliminates the need for steep-slope analogue filtering, shifting aliasing noise upward in frequency for zero impact in the audible range, for an effectively transparent filter function.

Gryphon Kalliope employs state of the art algorithms to execute these complex mathematical calculations with extreme speed and precision.

While sample rate conversion cannot restore lost information nor generate new information, properly executed sample rate conversion in the Gryphon Kalliope does create optimal working conditions for digital and analogue circuits, allowing them to more accurately reproduce all the information that is available.

The sample rate conversion process allows the implementation of a non-invasive, gentler, simpler, high quality analogue filter consisting of a single silvered Mica capacitor with high slew rate and tight tolerances. Separate filters are used for PCM and DSD.

After comprehensive listening sessions to seek out the best available digital-to-analogue conversion technology without regard to cost or other extraneous considerations, Gryphon equipped the Kalliope with the

most sophisticated digital to analogue conversion available today.

The final analogue stages are based on carefully selected fully discrete components of the highest quality.

Gryphon Kalliope is built to extract the very best from present and future digital audio sources from the humble CD to wideband, high-resolution DSD and PCM files.

Cutting Edge Digital Prowess

With a vigilant eye on the rapid evolution of the state of digital technology, Gryphon Kalliope is built to be future-proof with modular digital audio sections that allow practical upgrading, as the opportunity arises.

The consummate build quality, engineering, mechanical integrity and functional elegance of the Gryphon Kalliope can only hint at the musical glories that await from this

musical instrument designed solely to preserve the integrity and purity of the original musical event.

To experience what mere words cannot communicate, you are cordially invited to visit your nearest authorised Gryphon Audio Designs showroom for a demonstration of the cutting edge digital prowess of the Gryphon Kalliope.





Gryphon Mikado Signature

CD Player

The Gryphon Mikado Signature CD player is an elite audio component that combines elegant styling with stunning musicality and futureproof technology, confirming once again that there are still hidden subtleties and fine nuances to be discovered in the Compact Disc medium, as it comes of age after three decades.

Devoted exclusively to fine CD playback, the Gryphon Mikado Signature is refreshingly free of the compromises and concessions that handicap so-called universal or multi-format players. The Gryphon Mikado Signature reproduces CD with all the single-minded dedication that Gryphon owners have come to expect and demand.

When you choose the Mikado Signature, you know that its CD performance is no mere afterthought. It is the player's very reason for existing.

Having introduced the world to the irrefutable sonic benefits of up-sampling more than a decade ago, Gryphon breathes new life into your music collection with groundbreaking 32-bit/192 kHz upsampling in the Mikado Signature.

By maintaining the integrity of the original signal against a silent background with a noise floor well below that of the recording itself, the Mikado Signature creates a near-holographic expansive soundstage and sharply focused stereo image.

Based on a heavily modified top-loading floating suspension transport with die-cast, all-metal frame, Gryphon Mikado Signature employs

specially designed dual master clocks, an ultra-low jitter oscillator near the DAC's and a local master clock to control the transport.

The elimination of timing inaccuracies plays a large part in the sonic clarity and purity of the Mikado Signature. Acknowledging the rapid pace with which digital technology evolves, the digital audio sections of the Gryphon Mikado Signature are removable modular boards to allow convenient upgrading for futureproof digital excellence.

The Gryphon Mikado Signature proudly celebrates the compact disc as the medium of choice for music in the home, demonstrating that in the skilled hands of Gryphon's driven, skilled engineers there is even more musical pleasure and realism to be extracted from the silver disc than you had ever imagined.

Alvin Gold in hi-fi+, Oct. 2010

"This is a player that clearly sets standards – very impressive"

Australian Hi-Fi, Feb./Mar., 2004

"I can guarantee the Mikado will bring out the best in whatever music you prefer to hear."

Sound & Image, Australia, Dec. 2009

"The Mikado Signature's sound is immediately identified as one of superb detail retrieval and extreme resolution. The player pushes the envelope of what this two-decade old format can do. Be prepared to discover fine nuances and micro-detail you did not know existed on your CD's."

Haute Fidélité magazine, France

"Justified by its status as a full range manufacturer, Gryphon does not hesitate to offer a very high end CD player with unconventional electronics, and as usual, its audacious design provokes many to drop their jaws."

"If you intend to buy your last CD player and wished to break your money box, the Gryphon is on the list of contenders."

Positivefeedback.com, USA, 2004

"The Mikado is a transparent window to what is on the disc. A true reference in just about every way."

UltraAudio.com, USA, Sept. 2004

"Like the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta for which it's named, the Mikado is a source of musical delights."

High Fidelity, Denmark, April, 2004

"Gryphon Mikado is a CD player in a class right up there alongside the international elite. There can be no doubt whatsoever about this."

Stereotimes.com, USA, June, 2004

"If you're a music lover first and foremost, then you owe it to yourself to experience the same sense of excitement as I did when I put on my first CD through the Mikado."

Gryphon Mikado Signature

- Four Dual-Differential 32-bit/192 kHz AKM Digital-to-Analogue Converters with separate regulated power supplies
- Upsampling to 32-bit/192 kHz for enhanced sonic performance
- Two custom-built, temperaturecompensated crystaloscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- Heavily modified transport with all-metal chassis
- 40-gram precision-tooled anodised aluminium disc clamp
- Designed and built in Denmark

Find all reviews on www.gryphon-audio.dk



Gryphon Scorpio

CD Player

Gryphon Audio Designs has an unrivalled track record for innovation in High End audio. In the field of CD player design, the story begins with our very first digital source component at the close of the previous millennium. The Gryphon CDP-1 CD player introduced the world to the sonic improvements offered by upsampling, a technology now ubiquitous in digital audio.

Refusing to rest on our laurels, the successor to the CDP-1, Gryphon Adagio, took digital musicality to the next level with asynchronous 24-bit/96 kHz sample rate conversion. After further refinement of this technology in the Gryphon Mikado, the implementation of 32-bit/192 kHz upsampling in the acclaimed Gryphon Mikado Signature represented another giant leap forward, once again breaking new ground and blazing a trail for others to follow.

Gryphon Scorpio will reveal more of the hidden treasures in your CD collection than any other player, “universal” or otherwise, up to and well beyond its price point. That is its sole mission.

Digital Integrity

Based on comprehensive listening sessions in the quest for the best available digital-to-analog conversion technology without regard to cost or other extraneous considerations, Gryphon Scorpio employs an Asahi Kasei Microsystems Delta-Sigma DAC from the acclaimed designers of the world’s finest professional A-to-D and D-to-A converters. The advanced DAC at the heart of the Gryphon Scorpio makes a major contribution to the player’s effortlessly natural rendering of a three-dimensional soundscape with exceptional timing and razor-shape detail.

Gryphon’s pioneering upsampling technology significantly reduces filter demands on the analogue side of the D/A converter by shifting the spectrum of quantization noise (aliasing) up and away from the range in which it is most detrimental, so that the upper corner frequency of the digital anti-aliasing filter is more than four times that of the standard 44.1 kHz sample rate.

Gryphon Scorpio executes the filter function benignly in the digital domain by employing asynchronous 32-bit/192 kHz sample rate conversion originally introduced in the digital reference standard Gryphon



Mikado Signature to ensure greater resolution of fine detail, sharper image focus and extended high-frequency response.

The fine, European transport mechanism is specially constructed for silent running and effective vibration damping. The stylish feel and look of the sandblasted, anodised aluminium disc tray conveys the reliability and stability of this rock-steady, precisely calibrated mechanism.

The fit and finish of the Gryphon Scorpio is classic Gryphon in its subdued elegance and timeless beauty.

Gryphon Scorpio

- Four Dual-Differential 32-bit/192 kHz AKM asynchronous digital-to-analogue converters with separate regulated power supplies
- Upsampling to 32-bit/192 kHz for enhanced sonic performance
- Gentle digital filter roll-off for ultra-pure high frequencies
- Two custom-built, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- European transport with front loading metal tray True class A, fully discrete analogue circuits with no negative feedback
- First-order analogue filter with silvered Mica capacitor
- +/- 20 VDC regulated voltage supplies for best THD and noise suppression in analogue sections
- Separate custom-built Noratel toroidal transformers for digital and analogue sections
- 15,000 microFarad power capacitor banks per channel
- Ultra-short signal path with minimal Internal wiring
- Balanced analogue outputs with PCB-mounted gold-plated Swiss Neutrik XLR sockets
- 75 Ohm BNC S/PDIF digital output 4-line, 20 character display with user-selectable illumination (High/Medium/Low/Off)
- Remote control (also for basic Atilla integrated amplifier functions)
- Designed and built in Denmark

Enjoythemusic.com, February 2011

Gryphon Scorpio, Atilla and Mojo

"The Gryphon Audio Design system, like a race-winning Formula 1, has won over my heart because all the parts are finely tuned and come together to allow audiophile and music lovers alike to achieve musical excellence"



Audio Video Magazine, Brazil

Gryphon Atilla and Scorpio:

"This Gryphon set will be an eye opener for those who still do not believe that an integrated amplifier can replace a pre- and power amplifier combination."

"The money saved on interconnects and power cables can be invested in improved room acoustics or AC power that can have a significant effect on system performance"



Stereo Prestige & Image no. 46, 2010, France

Gryphon Scorpio CD Player:

"One can only congratulate the designers for the success of their achievement with Scorpio, a digital source that is truly musical in every sense of the word."

Find all reviews on www.gryphon-audio.dk

Scorpio & Atilla

"State of the Art"

Alta Fidelidad, Spain, Jan. 2011



"If you have a heart - you want, and if you have money - you buy."
Pro High End, Russia



Gryphon P

Reference Loud

Gryphon Pendragon

- Four column 800 kg loudspeaker system
- System response 16 – 30,000 Hz, ± 3 dB (depending on Q setting and room size)
- Separate electronic crossover network for each channel isolated in bass tower
- Wideband, dipolar thin-film planar magnetic, line source ribbon driver
- Reinforced, low diffraction high frequency baffle
- Linear, push-pull ceramic magnet system
- Custom designed Gryphon Class A/B bass tower amplifiers, 1000W continuous, 4000W peak
- Remote control for Q setting, Bass Level and Low Cut
- Eight 8" bass drivers for extreme speed and precision with massive air displacement
- Integrated Linkwitz-Greiner Q Controller with preset and custom Q settings for ideal low frequency integration in any room
- Triple-magnet bass driver motor system for maximum force and precise focus
- Floating passive crossover in vibration absorbers and comprehensive internal damping of premium passive custom components
- Sealed bass enclosures with extensive internal bracing
- Combination of pure wool and synthetic interior damping materials
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Power consumption at idle below latest EU requirements
- Remote control of bass level and Q setting
- L link remote start up circuitry
- Non-invasive protection system
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Virtually unlimited custom finish options
- Designed and built in Denmark

Pendragon is a name historically associated with ancient kings of the Britons, most famously, Arthur of Camelot. The figurative title Pendragon or Pen Draig means head or chief dragon, symbolising the bearer's uncontested leadership.

As we launch the Gryphon Pendragon, the most ambitious reference loudspeaker system in the history of Gryphon Audio Designs, we feel that it is a fitting name.

The Pendragon employs the self-powered bass tower made famous in its predecessor, the revolutionary Gryphon Poseidon system, pairing it with a single 2 meter tall full-range ribbon in an open baffle configuration for ideal coverage of an exceptionally wide frequency range extending from 16 Hz to 30 kHz with a simple two-way crossover.

The transparency, speed and spine-tingling musical realism of the resulting system set new standards for audio virtues such as resolution, timbre and soundstaging, illuminating the music in ways previously experienced only occasionally in glimpses or fragments of a speaker's overall performance, but rarely in a true full-range system.

But before we get too deeply embroiled in the merits and technologies of the Pendragon, it is equally fitting that we pay homage to the Danish mathematician, inventor and audio theoretician who inspired Gryphon founder and CEO Flemming E. Rasmussen to introduce loudspeakers to the Gryphon portfolio.

When Flemming E. Rasmussen first contemplated expanding into loudspeaker design, it was a given that he would only do so, if he could offer a giant leap forward in musical realism, just as he had done previously to international acclaim in the fields of analogue electronics and digital front ends.

A serendipitous encounter with Steen Duelund quickly led to a "Eureka" moment for Rasmussen as he immediately recognised the true potential of Duelund's wide-ranging theories once they could be harnessed and transformed into real-world products. Rasmussen knew instinctively that the Gryphon team possessed the requisite skills and experience.

Put simply, without Steen Duelund, there would be no Gryphon loudspeakers.

A Tribute to Steen Duelund

Rasmussen and Duelund were kindred spirits and shared an admiration of purity and simplicity in problem solving. Loudspeaker design was Duelund's all-consuming, lifelong passion and his high-flying theories were all founded in basic principles of mathematics, physics and psycho-acoustics, supported by empirical evidence.

Above all, there was stringency to his thinking. If he felt that a theory had merit, he would test it for himself and formulate his own conclusions. If he found a principle to be correct, then it was adhered to without deviation or compromise.

Despite Duelund's mathematical background, he eschewed complexity in problem solving. Like Rasmussen, he firmly believed that the basics of electronics only require a few parts, but because available parts are usually far from perfect, a huge number of additional components are required for damage control or, in Rasmussen and Duelund's favourite phrase, disaster management.

It is a perplexing paradox that it is a far more demanding task to create a simple, near ideal circuit than a complex circuitry with ten times as many components.

Because Duelund's extensive experience had revealed that drive units typically suffer from major shortcomings that require numerous corrective components (disaster management), he set out to find the ideal driver that required little or no correction to do its assigned job.

Duelund's first projects in the 1960's involved massive horn systems arising from a fascination with what the total absence of crossover components could contribute in terms of purity, transparency and dynamics.

Finding fault with even the most costly so-called full-range drivers, Duelund began to experiment with crossover networks, ultimately developing what he dubbed the synchronous crossover, an ideal filter with overall flat frequency response and no phase shift. Most crucially,

Pendragon Loudspeaker System

Duelund discovered that each driver in a multi-way system must have identical phase shift, i.e. there must be no phase difference between the drivers, regardless of frequency.

That the relative phase difference between drivers is more important than overall system phase also makes intuitive sense in light of the fact that the human ear uses phase to determine the directionality of sound, unlike a laboratory microphone.

With a breakthrough, ideal real-world filter, the major task remained of finding the best available drivers and then modifying them heavily to ensure that filtered driver response followed the filter function. In Duelund's perfectionist hands, filtered driver behaviour had to be perfect across as broad a frequency range as possible, not just to the -6 or 10 dBpoint, but all the way down to -30 dB.

Once these extensive modifications were completed, a new universe of loudspeaker design opened up.

Duelund recognised the same attitude in Rasmussen's approach to electronics development and they collaborated on radical experiments with little commercial potential, but acquiring valuable knowledge in the process.

The true legacy of Steen Duelund, beyond his innovative crossover design, his mathematical papers and the drivers, capacitors, resistors and coils he constructed, lies in his unique approach to solving problems, his lateral thinking and his openness to new ideas.

It is this heritage that lives on in Gryphon loudspeakers.

Steen Duelund's passing was a great loss, but thanks to years of close collaboration on decades of Gryphon loudspeaker development and his comprehensive written documentation of his theories, there can be no doubt that Gryphon loudspeakers, from the Pendragon and on into the future will continue to be developed in his spirit.

Simplicity

There is no escaping the fact that no single drive unit is capable of properly reproducing the entire audible range from 20 Hz to 20 kHz. No diaphragm can move fast enough to reproduce 20 kHz overtones

and, at the same time, move enough air to reproduce 20 Hz at realistic levels.

For this reason, loudspeaker manufacturers devote considerable resources during product development to selecting specialised drivers for each frequency section and, more importantly, to designing a crossover network to coerce them all to work together. To do so, the frequency spectrum is sliced up electronically and each piece is directed to the appropriate driver where things are hopefully reassembled acoustically. It is at this point that so much can go wrong.

Are the selected crossover components good enough to do their job without signal loss or distortion? Are the drivers sufficiently similar in tonal quality that they can create the illusion of a single coherent source of sound? Does the crossover properly compensate for the drivers' varying sensitivities so that the resulting sound is correctly balanced top to bottom? Have the crossover points between the drivers been properly tuned for undetectable, seamless transitions with no frequency dips or peaks? Is the cabinet designed to prevent resonances and deleterious interaction between the drivers? And don't get us started on phase relationships...

As proven time and again, Gryphon Audio Designs are masters of this arcane art, but it has always been one of our guiding principles that eliminating a problem altogether is far better than trying to solve it. First off, Gryphon Pendragon eliminates the cabinet altogether in the high frequency tower. In order to remove multiple crossover filter sections from the signal path, Pendragon employs a single full-range ribbon to handle all frequencies above 200 Hz. The single crossover section consists of the finest Duelund parts and solid silver components encased in a heavily damped aluminium block suspended freely behind the panels.

The reinforced, extremely rigid high-frequency tower houses a single planar magnetic thin-film ribbon transducer with line source characteristics, i.e., the ribbon generates a continuous, perfectly coupled, cylindrical wavefront across its entire frequency range for a uniquely coherent, wide and deep soundfield. ▶



► As a consequence of the unique wavefront form, Sound pressure level at a given distance drops off at half the rate (-3d B) of conventional speakers (-6 dB), for a more full-bodied, consistent, room-filling listening experience.

The system's innate extremely wide and even horizontal dispersion with virtually nil vertical dispersion creates a large, stable sweet spot with none of the floor and ceiling reflections that muddy the sound of conventional multi-way systems. Eliminating this major source of room interference allows Gryphon Pendragon to achieve new levels of room-independent clarity and resolution.

The ribbon is mounted in a frame made of three layers of heavy-

gauge, self-reinforced steel to ensure solid construction, free from any inherent resonance. A symmetrical magnet system consisting of a push-pull configuration of ceramic magnets fitted on both sides of the diaphragm provide linear drive of the polyester diaphragm whose moving mass is actually less than the air load.

Laminated with aluminium strips that act as a planar spiral voice coil, the ribbon's large radiating area moves only a very small distance even at high volume with minimal distortion and perfect control. Due to the ribbon's open construction and large surface area, heat dissipation is not an issue, resulting in high power handling capabilities with consummate ease.

With ideal sound reproduction and mechanical behaviour across more than seven octaves, the Gryphon Pendragon high frequency tower eliminates crossover components in the critical mid frequency range, preserving spectral and temporal integrity.

The Pendragon high frequency tower presents a purely resistive load, significantly reducing demands on the partnering amplifier, although the system's unrivalled transparency and accuracy deserve to be mated with the finest amplification and source components.

As a result of the ribbon's ultra-low mass, high power handling, wide bandwidth and durability, the Gryphon Pendragon high frequency tower responds precisely and instantaneously to even the subtlest of micro-dynamic changes, conveying all the expressiveness, richness and complex textures of the greatest recordings, laid out across a vast, natural soundstage with pinpoint stereo imaging.

The Foundation

Deep bass is, perhaps counter-intuitively, the most difficult part of the audio spectrum to reproduce with both accuracy and seamless integration with the upper frequency range. A full-range speaker with bass drivers built into the main enclosure has its own set of demons to exor-

“Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.”
Albert Einstein

cise as does the currently popular approach of tacking on a separate subwoofer for bottom end duties.

The Gryphon Pendragon bass tower represents yet another elegantly simple

Gryphon solution to a number of complicated problems. Each Pendragon bass tower houses eight custom designed 8" drive units and a built-in, specially designed Gryphon Class A/B power amplifier capable of 1,000 Watts continuous output. For extended headroom, peak power is approximately 4,000 Watts or 4.5 horsepower.

The Pendragon amplifiers are everything you would expect from Gryphon with 18 high current bipolar output transistors, 200,000 microfarad capacitor bank, DC servo-coupling, zero global negative feedback, no output relays, output coupling via massive copper bussbars, decoupled transformer casings, military spec. double-sided printed circuit boards and Holmgren toroidal transformers with internal magnetic shielding.

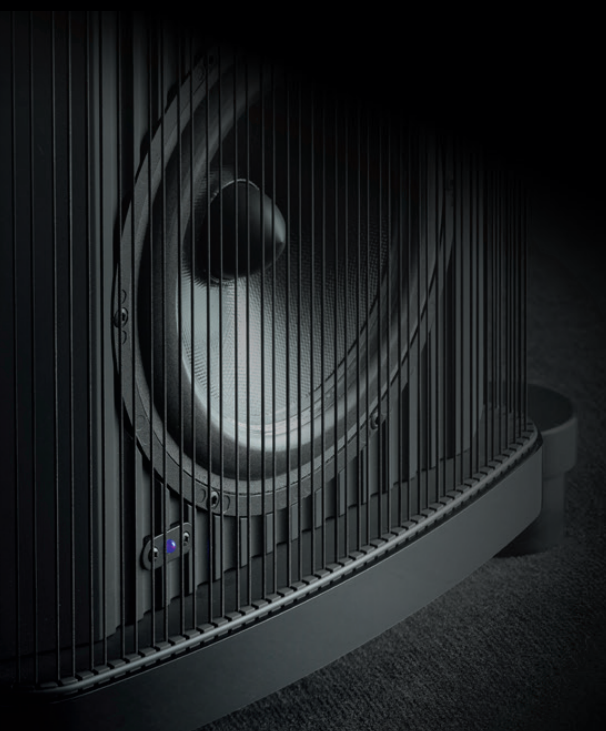
Active bass allows the user to select a separate amplifier for the high frequency towers without having to worry about the power demands of the massive Pendragon bass system. The bass system crosses over to the mid/high tower at 200 Hz.

By physically separating the bass and upper frequency sections, Gryphon Pendragon elegantly sidesteps the issues that inevitably arise in a full-range cabinet or in a satellite/subwoofer configuration.

Conventional passive loudspeakers must be designed for compatibility with a wide range of commercially available power amplifiers and active subwoofers are typically driven by an off-the-shelf "digital" power module that could fit in your hand.

By way of comparison, the purpose-built, onboard Pendragon power amplifier weighs in at 70 kg per tower!

Unlike compromised, "univer-



sal” amplifiers, the Pendragon amp has been conceived and built exclusively for optimal integration with the selected drive units, cabinet and flexible array of user-adjustable room integration parameters, for a level of performance unachievable by any standard mix-and-match approach.

Naturally, ideal integration with the Pendragon high frequency tower is assured.

Significant effort and resources have been focused on delivering extended deep bass with articulation, force and authority, completely independent of the acoustic environment.

To achieve this ambitious goal, the amplifier incorporates sophisticated Q Control circuitry to fine-tune bass response as well as additional features to ensure ideal room interface. The bass remote control allows adjustment of bass level, Q, low cut and other parameters directly from the listening position.

The bass module offers Standby mode and provides effective driver protection via a comprehensive non-invasive system that monitors all functions more than 100 times per second.

The singular bass performance of the Gryphon Pendragon system heightens awareness of rhythmic subtleties and nuances as it immerses the listener in music’s rhythmic power.

Unapologetic Luxury

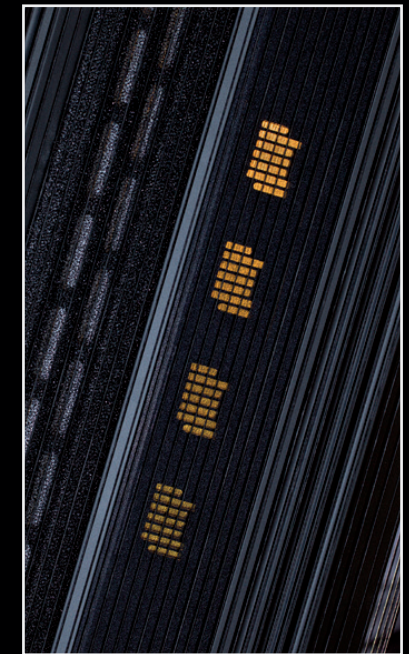
In a period of global financial crisis with no apparent end in sight, it cannot have escaped the attention of even the most casual observer that the audio industry and High End audio in particular have been in a state of constant and unpredictable flux as long-established brands struggle to re-invent themselves for survival under a brave new world order.

Some high profile brands soldier on, dazed and confused, with

significantly downsized ambitions. Some have surrendered, lending their name recognition to a range of iProduct accessories. Others have quietly closed up shop and faded away.

Gryphon Audio Designs of Denmark, however, have gambled and won with a bolder, more ambitious approach. Perhaps invigorated by our recent 25th anniversary celebrations, Gryphon reaffirms our commitment to being the best that we can be with the Gryphon Pendragon reference loudspeaker system.

The Pendragon towers are our proudest statement, our declaration of love to music and a finely crafted sculptural element to grace even the most luxurious of surroundings.



Gryphon Trident II

Reference Standard Loudspeaker System

The overwhelmingly positive reception of the Gryphon Poseidon, a four-tower system that occupied a considerable piece of domestic real estate, generated massive audiophile interest for a single-enclosure, full-range system that could perform to the same high standards in somewhat smaller rooms.

The original Gryphon Trident was that system. Now, the Gryphon Trident II breaks new ground in audio performance, exploiting innovative drivers and cabinet construction technologies to create a direct music conduit with consummate sonic neutrality, textural purity and dynamic ease.

Revised versions of Gryphon Audio Designs products are few and far between for the simple reason that Gryphon has never brought a product to the marketplace, before it was fully ready for prime time. Because each product is allowed to mature in its own good time, the lifespan of a Gryphon model is far longer than that of the typical High End component that, if one is to believe the manufacturers, is suddenly outmoded and ripe for replacement after a single season.

Gryphon products are never "flavour of the month." They withstand the test of time and remain at the forefront in their respective categories for many years, because of the obsessive level of attention lavished on every aspect of the design.

Based on Gryphon's single-minded unity of purpose and tightly focused, well-defined objective - musical purity - change is never pursued for its own sake. Revisions are implemented only when they offer a clear, significant step forward in musicality.

Fortunately, innovation comes naturally at Gryphon Audio Designs, where we take equal pleasure in pure, ground-breaking research and in the unalloyed joy proud users the world over derive from the fruits of our labours.

Gryphon Trident II is housed in a slimmer, taller, massively braced enclosure with precisely contoured baffle and driver surrounds and baf-

file covering carefully selected and applied to effectively address baffle reflections and eliminate diffraction phenomena.

The most crucial upgrade in Trident II is the implementation of an AMT (Air Motion Transformer) high frequency driver with minimal mass for instantaneous response to the audio signal.

Because of its large surface area, the pleated diaphragm structure energises a large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion, for a highly desirable point source sonic presentation. Eliminating fundamental issues of mass, inertia and internal resonance, the Gryphon Trident II high frequency driver offers lightning fast transients, combining flat frequency response well beyond 38 kHz with extremely low distortion and a total absence of compression.

By implementing a unique configuration of dedicated bass power amplifier in conjunction with heavily modified drivers, handmade crossover components, proprietary Q Control room integration and a non-resonant enclosure, the Gryphon Trident II elegantly sidesteps the electrical and mechanical problems which plague lesser systems consisting of randomly assembled stock components.

Conceptual and industrial design is as always by Gryphon founder Flemming E. Rasmussen.

Constant Phase

While constant phase has been acknowledged as a theoretical ideal for several decades, making that lofty goal a practical reality demanded lateral thinking and numerous labour-intensive, custom-built components specially designed by Gryphon in close collaboration with the manufacturers of some of the world's finest drivers.

Living up to the extraordinary standards that set Gryphon loudspeakers in a class all their own, the Gryphon Trident II incorporates specially developed constant phase technologies to ensure that all drivers are in phase at all frequencies at all times. Few loudspeakers can truthfully make this claim and they are all made by Gryphon.

As any acoustician will attest, this is quite simply a staggering achievement.

Fortunately, it is also an achievement that any music lover can immediately appreciate, as it effectively prevents any veiling or smearing in the temporal domain, allowing the Gryphon Trident II to re-create the original acoustic event with laser-sharp clarity, alacrity and precision.

Thanks to this exceptional level of musical performance and ingenious engineering, Gryphon was immediately accepted as a loudspeaker manufacturer of the first rank and praised for tackling the endeavour with the same innovative flair that has firmly established Gryphon as a major international player with amplification components and CD players widely regarded as among the very best in the esoteric world of High End audio.

Gryphon Trident II will offer stunning audio quality in rooms of virtually any dimensions.

From Theory to Practice

In order to live up to the uncompromising design goal of perfect phase all the time at all frequencies, the Gryphon Trident II enclosure incorporates a concave curved front to form a direct angled, time-aligned system with identical distance from the acoustic centre of each driver to the listener.

All cone drivers are custom designed for low Q and minimal dynamic compression and built by an internationally respected Danish driver manufacturer committed to assembling drive units to Gryphon's strict specifications. Highly focused, ultra-linear triple-magnet systems ensure total control of cone motion in the midrange and bass drivers. Specially developed surrounds match the geometry of the driver diaphragm and the fiberglass cone material is layer damped. Dust caps are non-deformable, low-mass and highly rigid.

Two 5" Kevlar midrange drivers and four 8" bass units are precisely angled in a symmetrical vertical array above and below the extraordinary

high-frequency Air Motion Transformer drive unit that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field.

The Trident II crossover network, based on wax-impregnated air-core inductors wound from copper foil and stacked foil capacitors potted in epoxy to resist mechanical interference, ensures undetectable, smooth transitions across the audible range.

28 V DC bias is applied to the capacitors, eliminating crossover distortion at zero electrical potential for audibly enhanced stability and substantial gains in body, timbral colour and image coherence.

Ideal In-Room Response

When it comes to loudspeaker-room interaction, most manufacturers cross their fingers and hope for the best. Rather than view the room as an enemy to be overcome, the Gryphon Trident II is designed to work with the room, employing Gryphon's innovative room-adaptive technology to interface with the listening space via the on-board Q Controller. Active Q control as a theoretical concept was introduced in the 1950's by Linkwitz and Greiner, but never successfully implemented until now.

Gryphon Q Control exploits what others narrowly regard as a problem: an acoustical phenomenon known as room gain, the fact that in any room, the enclosed space will reinforce frequencies below the room's resonant frequency.

With room gain well defined and with the knowledge that a sealed loudspeaker's response rolls off below its resonant frequency, it is possible to calculate complementary resonance and Q values for the loudspeaker and for the room to achieve resonance-free bass response from the speaker in a real room,

The Trident II Q Controller features pre-set and custom settings to seamlessly match the bass response of the speaker to the characteristics of virtually any room. Set-up of the Q Controller via remote control from the listening position is simplicity itself.

Phase coherent Trident II bass is deep and solid, retaining all the natural tactile and textural qualities of live music.

The built-in bass amplifier features the finest Sanken transistors and custom developed parts. Ultra-wide bandwidth and zero negative feedback contribute to the amplifier's extreme speed and unconditional stability.

Inspiration and Motivation

For fit and finish to match its performance, Trident II side panels incorporate an innovative modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child's play, offering the Trident II owner the option of re-dressing and updating the exterior of the loudspeakers at any time.

As was once the norm in High End audio, Gryphon Audio Designs is still run by enthusiasts able and willing to take ▶



► risks and push back boundaries out of sheer curiosity as to what awaits in uncharted territories where no one has gone before.

Like every Gryphon product from the very beginning, the Gryphon Trident loudspeaker system is based on rare insight into the true needs of the music enthusiast. This is the wellspring of inspiration and motivation that brings the Gryphon Trident II to life.

The result is a dramatic increase in dimensionality, a heightened sense of freedom in the bass and enhanced presence and focus.

Gryphon Audio Designs is proud to offer to the privileged few Gryphon Trident II, a direct connection to the souls of the performers.



Audio-Beat.com, February 25, 2013

Gryphon Trident II:

“That something so large, so solid, so apparently immovable can react so quickly and with such a deft touch continues to surprise and delight, while the phenomenal coherence and integrity of the musical whole that is achievable with these speakers is an object lesson in what high-end audio should be doing - bringing the performance home. Demanding on first acquaintance, they quickly settle into the sort of rewarding, entertaining and involving behavior that promises a long and fruitful relationship.”

“...if you have the space and the money, if you value fit, finish and flawless workmanship, if you like the idea of something a little different to the crowd, but most of all, if you really want music as opposed to sound, then the Gryphon speakers could be just your cup of Earl Grey.”

Monthly Audio Magazine of Korea, January 2011

Gryphon Trident - awarded best product of 2010:

“The Trident brought tears to my eyes when listening to violin”



Gryphon Trident II

- Three-way loudspeaker with on-board bass amplifier
- Constant Phase crossover for perfect phase at all frequencies at all times
- System response 16 – 40,000 Hz, -3 dB (depending on Q setting and room size)
- Remote control for Q setting, Bass Level, Mute and Low Cut
- Time-aligned front baffle curvature for identical arrival time from all drivers at the listening position
- Ultra-fast Air Motion Transformer tweeter with low-mass pleated metal diaphragm
- Customised, extensively modified Danish bass and midrange drive units
- Special cone surround termination to eliminate edge reflections
- Symmetrical vertical driver array for ideal point source presentation
- Four Gryphon 8" bass drivers for extreme speed and precision with massive air displacement
- Custom designed Gryphon bass amplifiers capable of delivering 500 Watts continuously (8 ohms) per channel
- Integrated Linkwitz-Greiner Q Controller with preset and custom Q settings for ideal low frequency integration in any room
- Individually adjusted passive mid/high crossover network
- Triple-magnet bass/midrange driver motor system for maximum force and precise focus
- Sealed enclosures with extensive internal bracing
- Combination of pure wool and synthetic interior damping materials
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Virtually unlimited custom finish options
- Designed and built in Denmark

The Gryphon at the Drawing Board

Blonde Ambition

by Flemming E. Rasmussen

I always find beauty in tools. They often represent the essence of good design. The carpenter's wood plane has, in the strictest Darwinian sense, evolved over time, shaping itself to a point of functionality where it almost becomes an extension of the carpenter's arm.

In my book, this is a side of industrial design that fully lives up to the cliché that form must follow function.

More often than not, industrial design represents a kind of aesthetic fascism, where the actual functionality is dictated by and suffers under a designer's grasping for a purely aesthetic statement. Great examples are chairs that are uncomfortable/impossible to sit on, pens that slip between the fingers, lamps that yield no useful illumination, the cool auto dashboard with instruments that cannot be read by the driver. The list is long and grows longer by the minute. Designer chairs, pens, etc., are often innovative and from a purely aesthetic viewpoint very pleasing, but they should be viewed more as sculptures, because their functionality has been severely compromised, rendering them useless for any purpose other than viewing.

As designers, we too often fall into the trap of trying to impress other designers, rather than creating useful design for real people.

Designing something beautiful, while setting aside functionality, is no challenge. Designing something that serves its intended function with no regard for its appearance is also a simple undertaking.

The fusion of style and utility is what constitutes great design that will stand the test of time and have a life beyond the coffee table books, critics and art museums.

Industrial design as applied to High End Audio is a daunting juggling act involving economics, technical skills, priorities and cultural design tradition.

The USA defined the High End and, interestingly enough, one of the earliest examples also became a design icon and model for things to

come: the Mark Levinson ML2 mono power amplifier introduced in 1977. Essentially, it was a big box with outboard heatsinks - because they were simply too big to fit inside - providing necessary heat dissipation, a faceplate with two handles to lift the beast and a light to indicate that power was on. It was minimalist design, crudely finished, but it was all functionality and straight to the point. The mould for High End amplifiers was cast and stood for a very long time. It did so simply because it was "right" and, therefore, beautiful.

The High End remains a cottage industry, typically driven by an enthusiastic audiophile with a DIY gene and maybe even some formal training in electronics. A sense of design or a modicum of aesthetic interest was usually not part of the skill set that Golden Eared Joe possessed or aspired to. Sound was the driving force, as it should be, if a choice must be made between good sound and a nice box.

*"All I want is to be loved,
for myself and for my talent."
Marilyn Monroe*

Lots of great sounding products came out of the audiophile woodwork, mostly tube contraptions, a plinth with some point-to-point soldering and, at best, an iron cage to contain the most obvious risk of fire. The product was the expression of what was possible with limited resources, both economically and in the design skills department. It became a de facto rule that great sounding products looked like a rubbish bin. Inferior cosmetic design, the result of poor skills, was extolled as a virtue and perceived as a guarantee of good sound. This attitude also transferred to the marketing of the product, often an advertisement with an incestuous message, decipherable only by the cognoscenti, with artwork from the hand of cousin Bubba via his Apple SE30 computer.

A much missed friend, the late Tony Federici of Mondial, told me in the early days, with the usual wicked glint in his eye, "The worse the advertisement, the better the product."

Consequently, the ubiquitous perception in audiophile circles was that the "smart" looking product was a decoy, distracting the buyer's attention away from the poor sound.

If it looks great, it must sound bad - the Marilyn Monroe syndrome.

In Europe, as well as most of the world outside the USA, an entirely different mindset prevailed. As part of a general philosophy, there was a European tradition of making things as light and production-friendly as possible by involving trained industrial designers in the development process.

The engineers would calculate the exact required specifications and dimensions of parts in order to minimize waste and support performance with safe use and product longevity.

Meanwhile, in the USA, the land of plenty, a more grand and relaxed approach dominated. When in doubt, just add more, make it bigger. Thicker casing, larger screws, heavier weight, etc. were seen as signals of solidity and dependability, as opposed to "artsy fartsy" Euro styling with its lighter design, sleek, brushed aluminium cases and design that aspired to be so much more than the diehard audiophile's wet dream.

Certainly, values have shifted through the years and, generally speaking, great High End design can be found on all continents, but in the diehard audio brigade, the attitude - well - dies hard.

In the immortal words of Albert Einstein: "It is harder to crack a prejudice, than an atom."



*From the 25th anniversary book
"Gryphon Unplugged" (2010) by
Albert L. Jones, Ken Kessler and more.
Still available on www.gryphononline.com*

Gryphon Pantheon

Reference Loudspeaker System

While it would be arrogant to refer to The Gryphon Pantheon as a “compact” loudspeaker, it is, despite its imposing, stylish presence, the slimmest floor-standing model in the exclusive, luxurious Gryphon Audio Designs loudspeaker range.

Drawing heavily on proprietary, innovative technologies and customised parts developed for and introduced in the Gryphon Pendragon and Trident II loudspeakers, the Pantheon lives up to the same exceptional standards of musicality, build quality and stylish design for an enhanced musical experience with soul and vitality.

Gryphon Pantheon is housed in a sleek, tall, massively braced enclosure with precisely contoured modular baffle and driver surrounds and baffle covering carefully selected and applied to effectively address baffle reflections and eliminate diffraction phenomena.

Constant Phase, Constant Musical Joy

In keeping with every Gryphon loudspeaker before it, the Gryphon Pantheon incorporates specially developed constant phase technologies to ensure that all drivers are in phase at all frequencies at all times, eliminating deleterious slurring in the temporal domain, allowing the Gryphon Pantheon to re-create the original acoustic event with holographic realism and ultimate resolution.

High Frequency Energy and Clarity

Like all Gryphon loudspeakers, the high-frequency range in the Gryphon Pantheon is handled by an extraordinary Air Motion Transformer (AMT) drive unit that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded metal sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field for instantaneous response to the audio signal.

Because of its large surface area, the pleated structure moves a large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion, for a highly desirable point source sonic presentation. Eliminating fundamental issues of mass, inertia and internal resonance, the AMT high frequency driver offers lightning fast transients, combining flat frequency response well

beyond 38 kHz with extremely low distortion and a total absence of compression.

Danish Drive

Pantheon cone drivers are custom designed for low Q and minimal dynamic compression to our exacting specifications by ScanSpeak, an internationally respected Danish driver manufacturer for over four decades.

The dual 8” bass drivers have been specially developed and mounted in separate, precision-tuned reflex chambers to achieve levels of bass extension and power rare in any loudspeaker, regardless of size and cost.

The dual 5” midrange drivers incorporate tightly focused, ultra-linear magnet systems to ensure total control of the motion of the layer-damped fiberglass cones. Specially developed surrounds match the geometry of the driver diaphragm and the dust caps are non-deformable, low-mass and highly rigid.

Seamless Networking

To achieve the ambitious objective of perfect phase at all frequencies and realize a truly seamless integration of the selected drive units, a fourth order filter network is utilised based exclusively on the finest components (Duelund, Jensen, Holm, Mundorf) in a layout carefully calculated to eliminate electromagnetic interaction and fitted to a decoupling platform to prevent vibration.

Incorporating the very best high current, low-loss foil capacitors and low distortion, low saturation inductors with negligible DC resistance carefully selected for their sonic and electrical characteristics, the hand-adjusted Pantheon crossover network performs with impeccable precision and transparency.

Minimal internal wiring with Gryphon Teflon insulated, silver-plated oxygen-free copper is employed. The crossover connects to a power amplifier via custom designed Gryphon screw terminals that ensure a tight and durable electrical contact.



Active Bias

The crossover network is pre-biased by an 18V battery for constant charge to the electrolytic capacitors in the impedance correction circuit in order to eliminate crossover distortion at zero electric potential, resulting in audibly enhanced stability and substantial gains in body, timbral colour and image coherence. Operating the battery-biased crossover in “Class A” mode ensures a smoother, more richly detailed three-dimensional presentation.

Boxing Clever

Tall loudspeakers with multiple drivers mounted in a long front baffle inevitably encounter issues of diffraction, resonances and flexing in the long, wide panel due to cone motion and the considerable pressure build-up inside the cabinet. Typically, manufacturers apply elaborate, complex measures in an attempt to tame these phenomena.

At Gryphon, we adhere to the old adage “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” In short, our “solution” is simply to elegantly sidestep these problems altogether.

To do so, Gryphon Pantheon incorporates independent baffle elements for each driver, breaking up the pathway through which vibrations would otherwise be transmitted in a single, shared baffle. With an overall thickness of more than 7 cm, the organic design of the Pantheon baffle becomes the next best thing to an immovable object.

The five separate Pantheon baffles also allow precision time alignment of the individual drivers based on the now classic, subtle Gryphon front baffle curvature. Meticulous attention has gone into the contouring of the baffle and driver surrounds to eliminate diffraction. Sound-absorbent material on reflective surfaces near the AMT high frequency driver prevents diffraction and smearing in the crucial time domain.

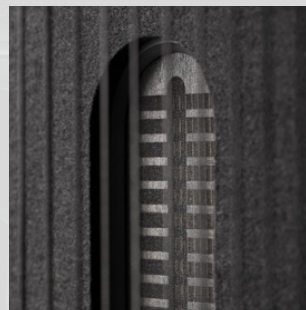
Beneath its finely sculpted exterior, Gryphon Pantheon offers an inert, non-resonant platform for the drive units combining extensive internal bracing and damping material.

The substantial feet provide a rock-solid foundation that lends the Pantheon system a firm grip on musical reality.

Free Style

The exterior design is distinctively Gryphon with a wide range of custom finish options and the opportunity to personalise your Gryphon Pantheon in the real-wood finish of your choice. In selecting a finish for your Gryphon Pantheon loudspeakers, the possibilities are limited solely by your imagination. Because the side panels are based on a modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child’s play, your choice is no longer a one-time only, lifetime proposition.

As a Pantheon owner, you gain access to virtually unlimited custom finish options, not only at the time of original purchase, but also at any time after that, as often as you desire.



Gryphon Pantheon

- Constant Phase crossover for perfect phase at all frequencies at all times
- System response 25 – 40,000 Hz, -3 dB
- Hand-adjusted passive crossover network
- Battery-powered bias for selected crossover capacitors
- Ultra-fast Air Motion Transformer tweeter with low-mass pleated metal diaphragm
- Dual Danish ScanSpeak 8” bass drivers for extreme speed and precision with massive, controlled air displacement
- 8” bass drivers in separate precision-tuned reflex enclosures with extensive internal bracing
- Custom designed Danish ScanSpeak 5” midrange drive units fitted with special basket, surround and centre dome and mounted in independent sealed enclosure
- Tightly focused, ultra-linear bass/midrange motor systems for maximum force and precise focus
- Mechanically independent baffles for each driver
- Special cone surround termination to eliminate edge reflections
- Symmetrical vertical driver array for ideal point source presentation
- Combination of pure wool and synthetic interior damping materials
- Stylish string grille for driver protection
- Gryphon internal wiring
- Virtually unlimited custom finish options
- Designed and built in Denmark

Gryphon Mojo

For proof of the veracity of that statement, one need look no further than the Gryphon Mojo loudspeaker system. Based on lessons learned and technologies developed during the evolution of Gryphon's groundbreaking reference systems, the monumental Poseidon, highly acclaimed Trident and innovative Atlantis, Mojo brings Gryphon loudspeaker excellence - with perfect phase at all frequencies at all times - to a new level of compact elegance, specifically engineered for optimal performance in rooms of more moderate proportions.

For contemporary styling worthy of the finest domestic interiors, Gryphon Mojo is available in a broad range of distinctive colour options. Standard finish is a revolutionary new soft feel urethane paint with an inviting tactile sensation developed for Mercedes Benz luxury car dashboards and other interior surfaces. Custom finishes in semi-gloss two-pack automotive paint with a very hard surface are available to order.

Mojo Drivers

Unfairly, the tweeter is almost always promoted as the star of the show. Often, too much focus is placed on exotic tweeter technologies that may be outstanding in their own right, but like so many stars, shine too brightly, failing to integrate well with the rest of the system. At Gryphon, we take an "all-star approach" when assembling a team of drivers. To qualify, each driver must be able and willing to make a significant contribution to a complete, seamless whole with consistent excellence across the audio band, not only in terms of frequency response, but also in the crucial areas of timbre, tonality, as well as sheer musicality.

The high-frequency range in the Gryphon Mojo is handled by an extraordinary Air Motion Transformer drive unit that moves air by driving an extremely low-mass folded sheet in a semi-perpendicular motion via a powerful magnetic field.

Because of its large surface area, the pleated structure moves a large air volume with minimal diaphragm motion, for a highly desira-

ble point source sonic presentation. Eliminating fundamental issues of mass, inertia and internal resonance, the Gryphon Mojo high frequency driver offers lightning fast transients, combining flat frequency response well beyond 38 kHz with extremely low distortion and a total absence of compression.

While such technologically advanced drivers are almost never incorporated into comparably sized loudspeakers, Gryphon selected only the best to deliver Mojo magic.

To live up to the high standards set by the Air Motion Transformer tweeter, Mojo employs a vertical symmetrical driver array with identical heavily modified Danish 5" bass/midrange units above and below the tweeter. Pulp paper cones, chosen for excellent linearity and controlled behaviour well beyond the driver's designated operating range, eliminate any need for invasive corrective measures to reduce the negative effects of cone break-up.

Dual 6" drivers provide larger surface area and high speed with minimal lag and overhang and allow a narrower front to reduce baffle diffraction. Built on die-cast baskets, the rigid, yet open, structure prevents built-up compression behind the cone.

These qualities and characteristics are essential to the Duelund/Gryphon philosophy of designing and building drivers correctly from the start, rather than using intrinsically flawed off-the-shelf drivers and attempting to compensate for their shortcomings with an overly complicated crossover.

Crossover

The Mojo crossover is a showcase of carefully chosen and purpose-built components, including extreme graphite resistors from Duelund Coherent Audio, hand-made Danish capacitors from legendary Jensen Capacitors and excellent low-memory, precision capacitors from Germany. All parts are hard-wired with special Teflon hard-insulated silver solder. Entirely hand-built Duelund resistors and Jensen air-core paper/oil inductors are components rarely employed in commercial loudspeaker

designs because of their prohibitive cost. It is even rarer to find this level of parts quality specified for a stand-mounted monitor of Mojo's dimensions.

Exploiting the inherent roll-off of the ribbon tweeter, a fourth order filter for the tweeter and the bass units ensures linear phase at all frequencies.

Enclosures

In order to achieve the uncompromising design goal of perfect phase at all time at all frequencies, the Mojo enclosure incorporates a concave curved front to form a direct angled, time-aligned system with identical distance from the acoustic centre of each driver to the listener.

Typically, speakers claiming time alignment employ a simple sloped front that is far less complicated and costly to build and assemble. Mojo's concave baffle is the only way to achieve true time alignment, for exceptional levels of transparency and musical realism. The curved baffle also reduces reflections from floor and ceiling, for enhanced clarity.

Taking a Stand

The Mojo can be supplied with an optional stand, including silicone pads for firm attachment of the speaker to the base and spikes and coasters for optimal coupling to the floor, for an effective evacuation path for vibration. For uncompromising support, the column can be filled with sand to add mass for even more effective damping.



HiEnd HiFi 2010, Taiwan

The Magic Speakers

"Honestly, when I wrote the article I was still wondering how Gryphon Mojo managed to give me so many surprises in that small room. In terms of the satisfaction I got from that day's listening experience, it surpassed what I had from listening to more expensive speakers in larger spaces.

While I was amazed by the extraordinary performance of Mojo, I had to admit it also resulted in the perfect coordination of the equipment and space. So, was this Mojo's magic? Should Gryphon Mojo be able to produce the same super high quality sound in most small spaces as it did at the Shengfengqun Stereo Store? If so, then I think it's worth the price."

The audiophile web magazine

Enjoythemusic.com. Feb. 2011

Gryphon Atilla, Scorpio and Mojo:

"The Gryphon Audio Design system, like a race-winning Formula 1, has won over my heart because all the parts are finely tuned and come together to allow audiophile and music lovers alike to achieve musical excellence"



Sixmoons.com. April 2011

Gryphon Mojo:

"Does that make Gryphon a top speaker house by common triangulation? On the strength of its smallest speaker I'd have to say 'yes sirl!'"

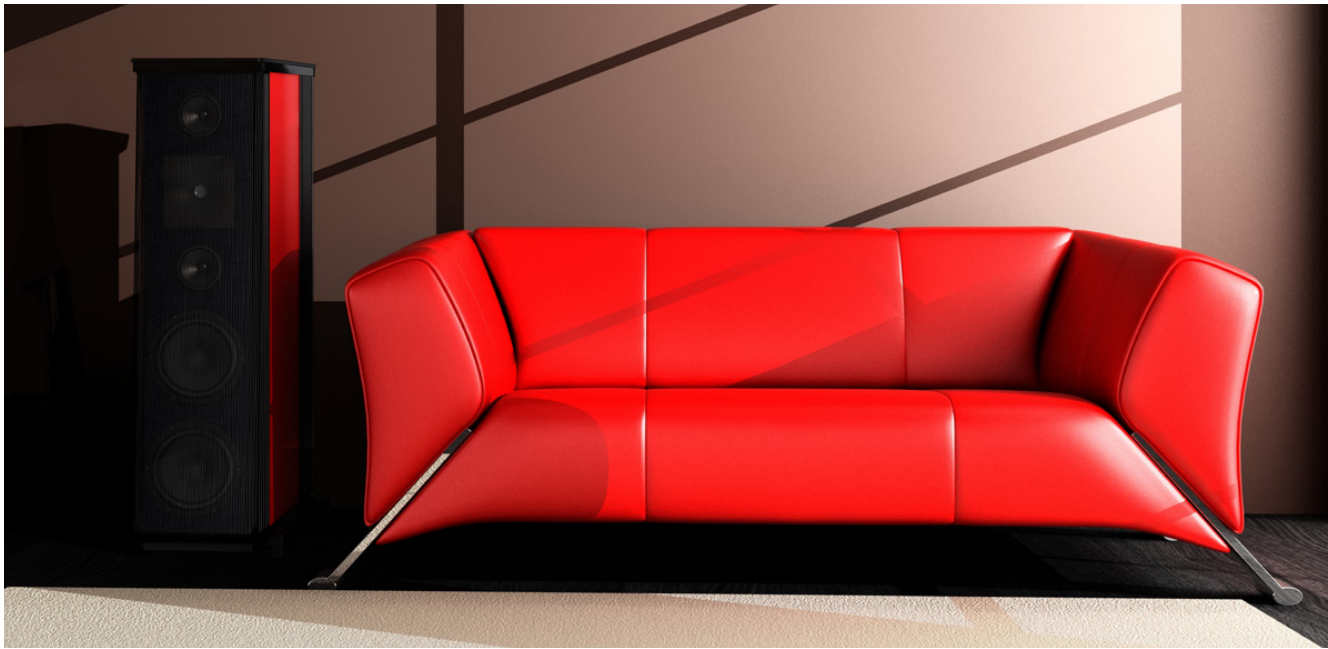
Audio Art, Taiwan. January 2011

"Best Performing Speaker" Award

"Actually, if small speakers could do such a good job, there seemed no need for big speakers at all" and "... with my eyes closed, I would never believe that it was the work of small speakers such as Mojo".



"...with my eyes closed, I would never believe that it was the work of small speakers such as Mojo".
Editor-in-Chief Jack Liu,
Audio Art, Taiwan. Jan. 2011



Unlimited Custom Finish Options

Because the side panels of the Gryphon Pendragon, Pantheon and Trident II loudspeakers and Colosseum and Mephisto power amplifier are based on an innovative modular construction that makes removing and replacing them child's play, the choice of finish is no longer a one-time only, lifetime commitment.

This design feature allows Gryphon to offer a service unique in the audio field: access to virtually unlimited custom finish options not only at the time of original purchase, but also at any time after that.

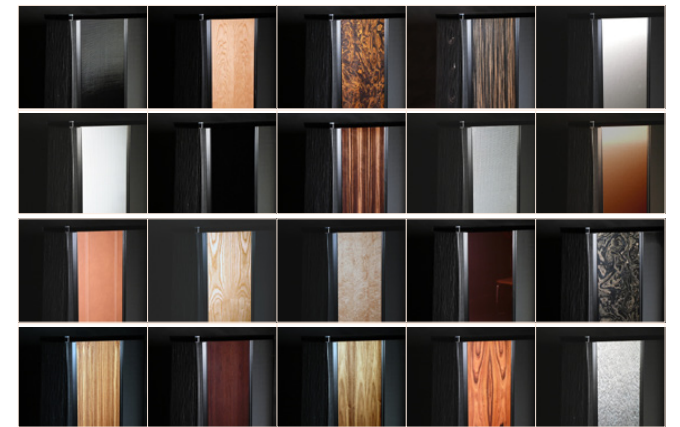


This exclusive service and extraordinary level of flexibility was pioneered by Gryphon for the now discontinued Cantata loudspeaker system to let the owner keep pace with evolving personal style and interior decor.

It is our philosophy that the Gryphon owner deserves not only sound quality to the highest audiophile standards, but also a personal design statement equally pleasing to the eye.

With the exception of illegal or hazardous materials and endangered species, we can accommodate any request. The possibilities are limited solely by the client's imagination and budget.

Here are some examples of recently developed Gryphon custom finishes.



Gryphon Powerzone II

Distribution Block

If all that we have learned over the course of the thirty-year history of Gryphon Audio Designs could be summed up in just one simple phrase, it would probably be these words: Everything matters.

And there is perhaps no more telling proof of this than the domestic AC power line, where the implementation of prudent measures such as audiophile grade power cords and AC distribution blocks can make a world of clearly audible difference, despite the irrefutable fact that there are many miles of poorly insulated, low-grade wiring between the power plant and the home.

Despite the scoffing of sceptics, the purity of the AC line in those final few metres from the wall outlet to the audio equipment matters, because the AC supply has entered a hostile environment flooded with EMI (ElectroMagnetic Interference) and RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) and because, ultimately, it is this AC supply that will be modulated to create the music signal.

The Gryphon PowerZone II takes a completely down to earth common sense approach to power distribution and the preservation of the purity of the power coming out of the walls

No mains filtration or conditioning is employed in the Gryphon PowerZone II, because, in our experience, these functions are best performed in properly regulated power supplies in the audio equipment itself.

Built on a substantial chassis of aeronautical-grade aluminium, Gryphon PowerZone II effectively rejects RFI and EMI from neighbouring residences and industry as well as interference radiating within the home from computers, digital devices, fluorescent lighting and common household appliances.

The star wiring ground configuration of the Gryphon PowerZone II eliminates ground loop noise for low electrical resistance.

Premium Rhodium-plated pure copper conductors with minimal contact resistance ensure the uninterrupted flow of current to sensitive audio components. The precision grip of each receptacle offers more secure blade contact for a tighter, larger contact area to prevent vibration and provide long-term stability.

The IEC input and outlets of Gryphon PowerZone II incorporate conductive parts manufactured for Gryphon by Furutech, pioneers in the field of cryogenic and anti-magnetic treatment of metals for unstressed conductance. All internal wiring is specially developed Gryphon AC power cable.

Proper grounding, effective vibration control, meticulous materials selection and maximum electrical shielding combine to reduce noise and resonance to an absolute minimum so that music emerges from an utterly silent background.

Gryphon PowerZone II preserves and reveals the tonal purity, harmonic integrity, tonal contrasts, minute spatial cues and micro-dynamics that bring music to life.



Gryphon Powerzone US



Gryphon Powerzone EU

Gryphon A

Few people are aware that way back when Gryphon Audio Designs was just a twinkle in founder Flemming E. Rasmussen's eye, he already had considerable experience in the design and manufacture of cables and plugs. In fact, Rasmussen was the first to introduce PC-OCC (Pure Crystal Ohno Continuous Casting) cables outside Japan.

For practical and economic reasons, conventional cable is made from extruded metals in a high-speed process involving forced, rapid cooling. PC-OCC technology can briefly be described as slow, continuous casting of the wire strand which is kept in liquid form as long as possible until natural cooling forms the material. The starting point - the base material - is the same, but the results are very different. The PC-OCC process ensures greater purity with far fewer gaps in the crystalline structure to oxidize over time. Basically, PC-OCC forms an infinitely long single crystal.

Having heard about this breakthrough, Rasmussen went to Japan to visit the first factory to produce wire using this innovative process. Impressed with what he saw, Rasmussen negotiated an agreement to introduce the

technology in Europe. The cables were sold under the Signal Master brand and were an immediate success.

In Germany, distribution was handled by Oehlbach and the cables played a substantial role in establishing the position that Oehlbach holds to this day.

Openness to new technology and materials allowed Gryphon to re-think cable design from the ground up. Like our acclaimed audio components, Gryphon cables are based on the belief that simplicity in all aspects is preferable to corrective measures to counteract opposing forces. This is why Gryphon cables have never utilized more or less "magical" boxes with "top-secret circuitry." Such boxes are often found attached to some very ordinary wire.

Gryphon was also an early pioneer in the use of long-crystal silver

conductors, demonstrating that silver is an outstanding conductor and that a long-crystal structure completely eliminates the subjective sonic hardness that silver cables often were blamed for. Silver is available in various levels of quality and silver-plated copper cables in particular were heavily promoted at the time.

Gryphon employed only the finest and purest silver in the PSC1 (Planar Speaker Cable 1) and later went so far as to gold-plate the silver conductor to prevent oxidation of the silver that could impact conductive properties and degrade sonic performance.



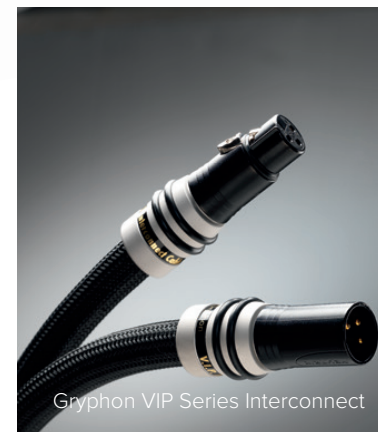
Gryphon VIP Series Speaker Cable



Gryphon Headline



Gryphon Guideline Reference



Gryphon VIP Series Interconnect



Gryphon Masterline Speaker Cable

Accessories



Cable specifications and configurations may change. Please consult your Gryphon dealer about our current cable range and the possibility of trying out our cable ranges in your system. We do not design synergy in our products, consequently any other high resolution cables can be used with our amplifiers and speakers. However, if you wish to hear our products as we designed them, you owe it to yourself to discover Gryphon cables from the AC outlet to the Speakers.

Gryphon was also among the first to use gold-embedded silver conductors.

However, it takes more than fine conductive materials to make a great cable. Good conductors become great when properly selected for their purpose and when the geometry of the other materials matches the quality of the conductors.

Tight mechanical construction has always been a central aspect of Gryphon cable design, maintaining the geometry of the cable to effectively isolate the conductor from vibration and microphonic effects. From the beginning, key features such as Teflon insulation and acknowledgment of the importance of effective shielding have also been high priorities.

Many manufacturers have found themselves caught in the trap of making cables that narrowly complement the sound of their own audio components – a synergistic effect – but Gryphon has always viewed this as coloration somewhere in the reproduction chain. Just like Gryphon amplification and source components, our cables stand on their own merits with universally fine performance in any combination.

Neutrality is the core of the Gryphon formula for correct sound. Sound that is "nice" or "sweet" is simply euphonic coloration, but sound that is correct is... well, correct.

It is a sad truth that cable as a product category has been the subject of much myth-making and frequent snake oil explanations. Often, more creativity and innovative thinking go into marketing than into the design of the actual product.

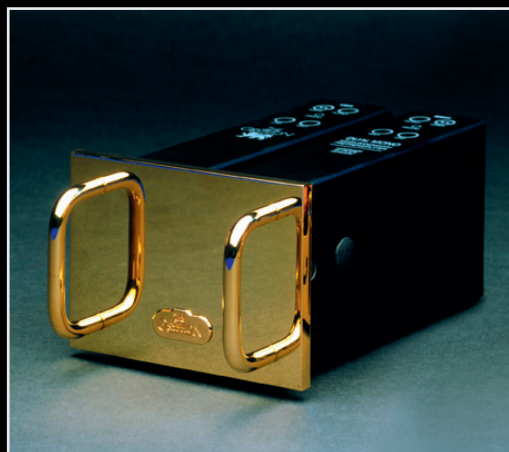
As with so many other things, the quality of the cable must ultimately speak for itself and prove its suitability for the purpose for which it was created, i.e. to ensure that information is transferred from point A to point B without loss or change of any kind.

Ours is a holistic, purist approach to the design of audio equipment – sound from the performer is conveyed to the music lover intact, correct, alive and engaging. Anything else is just coloration - and colorations, no matter how "euphonic" they may be, are still wrong.

We extend a cordial invitation to audition our cables. They will amaze in conjunction with a system based on ultra-High End Gryphon products and will be a welcome addition to any high-resolution audio system.



Gryphon VIP Series Speaker Cable is delivered in an aluminium flightcase.



The first Gryphon, 1985

*"I stopped "testing" and simply
started to listen to music, there was
the real magic in the Gryphon preamplifier"*

Leo Fung, HK 1989

The Gryphon Preamplifier