

# Bring out the Bryston

Here's a no-nonsense **pre/power amp** combo that won't leave you in a pickle

**BRYSTON EQUIPMENT RARELY** impresses for styling or finish, and this combo is no different. The BP26 DA/2B SST pre/power looks for all the world like lab equipment that's escaped into the wider world, though the 20-year warranty reminds us how solid it actually is.

In basic form, the BP26 preamp (£2600) has an outboard power supply and is line-level-only, coming with a generous provision of balanced and unbalanced connections. You can also add a phono stage (MM £400/MC £900) or even a digital-to-analogue converter (£1000), so this is a flexible unit.

The 2B SST power amp can accept both balanced and unbalanced inputs,

**"These sound astonishingly good, combining refinement and transparency like few can"**

and be converted from 100w per channel stereo to bridged 350w mono.

Features aside, these Brystons sound astonishingly good, combining refinement with transparency and punch in a way that eludes all but the very best.

Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* is delivered with immense scale and dynamic reach, with each instrumental strand easy to follow no matter how complex the piece gets. In addition, there's a lovely openness to the presentation that makes the speakers, like our ATC SCM 50s, disappear. Move to the White Stripes, and the Brystons deliver rock solid bass, crisp timing and a truckful of detail.

Flaws? Sonically, there are *none*! Only the extra cash for the DAC is debatable, if you already own a quality CD player. Otherwise, this is a must-hear package.

DAC/PREAMP/  
POWER AMP  
BRYSTON  
BP26DA/2B SST



£ 3600/1950

## FOR

This kit combines transparency with insight and punch better than anything else we've heard at this price; sturdy build; flexibility

## AGAINST

Plain appearance; the DAC option is not exactly cheap

## VERDICT

If sound quality is paramount, this Bryston combination is a must-listen: it's a great all-rounder, and even better value if you buy the non-DAC version of the preamplifier

Three boxes: the preamp on top; then the power supply for the preamp; finally, the power amplifier

