



Robert Koda K-15 EX/ Takumi K-160

AMPLIFIER
PREAMPLIFIER/MONO POWER AMPLIFIER

We tested the Robert Koda K-15 EX line preamplifier in Issue 196. 20 issues later, we revisited the same preamplifier in discovering the strengths of the Robert Koda Takumi K-160 mono power amplifiers. The two are natural partners; they are extremely exclusive (there's a waiting list measured in years), they both leverage the skills Robert Koch learned when he worked under

the late Hiroyasu Kondo of Audio Note fame and both amps use innovative amplifier architecture to deliver the best performance possible.

The best meets the best

By super-high-end standards a five input balanced solid-state preamp (that doesn't include a balance knob or remote control) and a solid-state 150W per channel mono power don't sound like the best of the best, but a minute or so into listening to them, and you'll start trading in first-born sons to get on the waiting list! These amplifiers deliver all the sonic beauty and refinement of the finest single-ended triode amplifiers, with the power, grip, and stability of solid-state designs.

Both amplifiers combine to make a sound so unelectronic in nature, you'd swear you were listening to the real thing. This is a very immersive experience; not simply thanks to the Koda duo's excellent imaging properties; you feel more connected to the music. There's an integrity and coherence to the music being played through these amplifiers that is so often missing elsewhere. It's not simply the absence of background hash, these amplifiers can move you to tears – and tears of joy – just by getting you so close to the music. And that's worth waiting for!

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