

Primare I30

£1500

IT MIGHT SEEM odd to describe our most expensive Award-winning amplifier as something of a bargain, but that's exactly what this is. Primare's I30 is, in essence, high-end kit wrapped up in a sensibly priced package.

Luxurious isn't a word you'll find too often in these pages, but the I30

“If there's even a small element of goodness in a recording, the I30 finds it”

justifies its use with its rock-solid casework, its immaculately machined front panel, and chunky controls. We've come across amplifiers at triple this price from world-respected manufacturers that lack the Primare's class.

VERDICT

This is a smart, luxuriously built amp that never puts a foot wrong. Good enough to shame many pricier alternatives

We don't always describe our most expensive Award-winner as a bargain, but this certainly is

Don't make the mistake of thinking the I30 is just a pretty box: take off that heavy lid, and you'll find carefully designed, fully balanced circuits and a beefy power supply. The result is a superb amplifier that'll happily live with components well beyond its already hefty price tag. It's also hard to fault sonically – which is why it gets a gong.

Crystal-clear sound quality

The I30 has a transparent, insightful sound that gives a crystal-clear view into the recording and performance. As with all the best amplifiers, if either of these is below par, you'll not be shielded from the truth. That said, if there's even a small element of sonic goodness in a recording, no matter how bad the rest of it is, this is one amplifier that'll let you appreciate it, where other amps might bury it within a clutter of sound.

The Primare doesn't care if you listen to Springsteen or Stravinsky: it has the drive and timing to satisfy Boss fans, and the scale, power and finesse to make the *Rite of Spring* magical.

Think of all the things you'd want from a class-leading £1500 integrated amplifier – Primare's I30 fulfils them all with ease. It has the kind of performance that products in the next price class upwards would envy, yet has sacrificed nothing in build, finish or usability in the process. If you have this kind of money to spend on an amplifier, buy the I30 with confidence, and look forward to many years getting to know your CDs again.

NOW ADD THESE

**CD PLAYERS
PRIMARE CD31**

£1500

The natural partner for this amplifier, and one that will make the most of the I30's incredibly broad spread of sonic talents

**STEREO SPEAKERS
PROAC STUDIO 140**

£1400

These are lively and entertaining speakers that put the music first. They'll add a touch of spice to the Primare electronics, without sacrificing any of the pairing's strengths

