

# Primare I30



£1500

**IT'S HARD NOT** to be impressed by the I30's class: it feels as solid as it looks stylish, and all the controls work with an air of precision rare even at higher price-levels.

And although this is very much an audiophile design – with a fully balanced symmetrical circuit layout, and the two channels kept separate from input to 100w per channel output stage – it's not short of features to make it flexible and easy to use. You get balanced inputs, a preamp output for biamping, and a remote.

In action, the I30 is one of the cleanest, most informative amps available below £2000. It delivers the seismic dynamic shifts of Holst's *Mars* with real conviction. What's more, the sound doesn't

harden up at high volume. Timing is crisp, too, so Massive Attack's hard-charging rhythms are treated with the respect they deserve, while stereo-imaging is both superbly layered and focused.

The old Primare A30.1 was good, a multiple Award winner in fact, but this model is in another league. It's more open, and with extra resolution, dynamics and timing. Factor in the superb build, and you're looking at an exemplary buy to challenge the very best. Primare has hit the bullseye – this is a fabulous amplifier for the money.

## → VERDICT

A beautifully built piece of kit: we're often reminded why it won an Award in 2006

