

Summary from Stereoplay Magazine 01-2006 ([www.stereoplay.de](http://www.stereoplay.de))

### **Thorens TEM 3200 – The best power amplifier in the world!**

At first glance, the setup of Thorens' newest product can be quite confusing: Almost all known concepts for amplifier design have been thrown overboard or radically altered. The results of the German-made device, however, speak for themselves.

The list begins with the shielded input transformer, highly unusual for power amplifiers. It enforces continually balanced conditions for the following symmetric signal path independent of the signal source. Additionally, Thorens employs a distinctive design to gain highest quality results throughout the whole amplification process:

Extremely high transconductance EC86 NOS tubes “made in Germany” are used as input tubes featuring exceptionally low noise and pulse velocity. These demands can only be met by special output tubes - formerly only found in Russian military radar devices - to provide the perfect match. It comes with an extra large cathode and a deliberately granular anode heat sink. To complete the unusual setup, the Royal British CV 6189 tube with gold plated pins acts as the middleman. This extreme trio, of which Thorens has already bought thousands for production and service, is controlled by top secret circuitry casted in three modules to provide highest precision biasing. All stages are DC-coupled, making sound critical coupling capacitors superfluous. All active parts are arranged so ingeniously that the final setup of the operating points is completed with the turn of just one single potentiometer. The last technological surprise is the circular arrangement of two unusually large transistors in the output stage. The radical newly designed Circlotron topology allows crystal clear signal conversion with control of every loudspeaker.

Have you ever wondered where the background sound in Jack Johnson's “Banana Pancakes” comes from? It sometimes sounds a bit like studio rain, sometimes more like bad production quality. But with the TEM 3200, you finally learn that it must be real water. You are able to hear every dribbling, trickle and drop. Similar experiences can be made with Birelli Lagrene's “Gipsy Project & Friends”. Regularly pushing other amplifiers to their limits, this piece is no match for the TEM 3200 - the usual flatness is replaced by violin melodies of amazing vitality generating a whole new melancholy unknown before now. Every instrument remains distinct yet, simultaneously, is in perfect harmony with all others. From the tiniest niche to the most enormous hall, this amplifier will never swallow even the slightest nuance.

All testers listening to the sound of the TEM 3200 were unanimous: This amplifier truly sets new standards in fine dynamics and spatial sound. With lovely voices and brilliant piano melodies, it surpasses all other amplifiers previously considered the reference in high fidelity music reproduction.

There is no doubt about it: The TEM 3200 is an absolute winner. The world's best power amplifier!