

STATE OF HEART

THE
GRYPHON



THE GRYPHON ANTILEON
PURE CLASS A POWER AMPLIFIER
MADE IN DENMARK



228



THE GRYPHON ANTILEON DUAL MONO POWER AMPLIFIER

Features

- * Fully balanced circuit
2 x100 Watts per channel
Pure Class A
- * 40 High current bipolar
output transistors
- * 280,000 μ F power capaci-
tor bank
- * Flat frequency response to
beyond 250kHz
- * Gryphon Guideline Mk 2
solid silver internal wiring
- * Minimum negative feed-
back
- * Custom-built separate
toroidal transformers
- * Shielded, epoxydam-
ped transformer housing
- * Separate power supply for
display and control circuits
- * Custom-built power capacitors
No output relays
- * User-programmable Green
Class A bias
- * Class A status display
- * AC voltage status display
- * DC servo coupling
- * Frequency-independent
damping factor
- * Rigid mechanical structure
- * Comprehensive, non-invasive
protection system
- * Double sealed, mil spec PCB
with 105 mp copper traces

Antileon: In classical mythology, the son of Hercules and Proclis, the daughter of Theseus, whose name means "sounds divine"

The DM100, Gryphon's very first power amplifier, was born a classic, establishing itself immediately in high end circles as one of the most acclaimed amplifiers ever. Now the Gryphon Antileon takes



us several steps closer in the never-ending quest for a more natural and convincing musical illusion. Years of experience with the DM100 and additional research in the fields of circuit topology and component quality and reliability have finally made it possible to develop a new amplifier that rightfully can take the place of the DM100.

Sonic excellence

The Antileon impresses immediately with its ability to cruise effortlessly through even the most demanding musical passages, regardless of volume level. As a result of the constant high power reserves available

at all times, the amplifier simply does not "see" the speaker, so the speaker's reactive load cannot degrade amplifier performance. Unlike other high power amplifiers, Gryphon's no compromise pure

Class A topology allows the Antileon to offer high power as well as refinement and delicacy in musical presentation.

It is our fundamental philosophy that all electronics in the playback chain must ideally be neutral and not add or subtract anything from the recording, no matter how "attractive" such distortions may be. The Antileon is by nature a product for the fortunate few who can afford such a statement, just as it is a product for the

increasing number of audiophiles who seek purity in the reproduction of music, a product for music lovers who respect both the musicians and recording engineers enough to refrain from adding or subtracting anything in relation to the original intention of the recording.

Circuit topology

Power is the name of the game and the Antileon is equipped to take on even the most vicious and night-marish of speaker loads. The output section uses Sanken bipolar output devices which have demonstrated extreme reliability in addition to outstanding sonic performance. These transistors can be called

upon to deliver momentary peak power of 4,000 watts per channel without overload. Each of the 40 transistors is bypassed with individual film capacitors.

The separate driver section has its own supply from individual windings on the custom-made toroidal transformers. Unique mechanical design ensures optimal thermal tracking between drivers and output devices. The driver section features its own generous bank of proprietary Gryphon capacitors.

The power capacitor bank is an astounding 280,000 μ F array of Gryphon capacitors designed especially for the Antileon.

Negative feedback is minimal and DC coupling employs DC servo circuitry. Internal wiring in the signal path is kept to an absolute minimum. The input wiring is Gryphon Guideline Mk. 2 single crystal solid silver cable. Only balanced inputs are provided.

Unique even in this price range, the Gryphon Antileon utilizes a completely independent transformer and power supply for display and control circuits, effectively preventing digital noise generated by these circuits from reaching the amplifier circuits.

Gryphon proprietary speaker terminals accept bare wire, spade lugs, banana connectors or any combination.

Because of the considerable power consumption inherent in a Class A design, the Gryphon Antileon constantly monitors and displays current AC power status, allowing the user to evaluate at a glance whether the local power station is

staying within its own prescribed limits for voltage swing. Variations caused by heavy industry in the daytime or even by peak television

would have to be able to predict what is going to happen next on the recording. Auto-biasing can by nature only respond to something

that has already happened and the bias will rush up and down in a desperate attempt to follow the last note.

Put bluntly, there is no such thing as a free lunch when it comes to pure Class A, so we repeat with no apologies: TRUE, PURE CLASS A means heavy transformers, very large heatsinks, lots of

heat, lots of electricity, expensive parts and costly assembly.

While we appreciate and endorse every effort to conserve energy and preserve our global resources, our research into efforts to obtain Class A performance from class A/B topologies makes it clear that there simply is no substitute for the sheer magic of pure class A.

However, based on thorough analysis of typical listening situations, we have devised Green bias (green for reduced environmental impact). Green bias offers TRUE, PURE CLASS A with considerably lower power consumption than the traditional solution.

With the DM100, Gryphon was the first amplifier manufacturer ever to offer programmable Class A bias as a means of reducing power consumption without compromising Class A performance.

Green bias in the Gryphon Antileon allows the user to select the amount of Class A required to run his speakers fully in Class A at any given time, taking into account such factors as speaker sensitivity, room size, musical dynamics and overall volume level.



viewing hours in the evening may also be registered by the display.

Class A

True Class A operation has always been a Gryphon benchmark, simply because nothing in our experience can match the sonic glories of pure class A.

Unfortunately, true Class A is even rarer today than when we introduced the DM100. Rising consumer awareness has forced some manufacturers to stop making outrageous, unsubstantiated claims of Class A power ratings that only exist in the fevered imagination of some marketing "expert".

Still, there is a growing number of so-called "new" Class A topologies based on automatic biasing which, simply explained, somehow allows the amplifier to sense when the bias should increase to ensure constant Class A performance!

If such a thing were to actually work as claimed, it would be tantamount to a re-writing of the laws of physics. In order for an amplifier to be able to increase bias and stabilize thermally to instantaneously meet the dynamics of the input, it

Green bias improves on our programmable bias by giving the fortunate owners of the Gryphon Elektra preamplifier the option of letting the preamplifier automatically control the bias.

Instead of a conventional potentiometer, the Gryphon Elektra employs a 24-position volume attenuator which can be used to select the bias to match the overall playback level, thus ensuring pure Class A at all times.

Unlike signal-sensing "auto-biasing systems," Green bias does not attempt to follow the signal at all, the current position of the volume control determines the bias setting whether music is playing or not. In effect, this means that if the user selects, for instance, position 10 on the volume control, then bias will increase to 100%, producing 100 Watts, pure Class A. This bias level will be maintained even when music is absent or when the amplifier or

continually lower power consumption without sacrifice or compromise of even a fraction of its PURE CLASS A performance.

Antileon users who do not own the Gryphon Elektra preamplifier can



access the programmable bias system manually.

Elektra preamp owners can order a small kit to upgrade to Green bias operation. New Elektra preamplifiers can be ordered with Green bias factory fitted.



Protection

The unique, non-invasive protection system offers reliable, fuss-free protection without compromising signal purity and signal path simplicity, with no conventional relays in the signal path to degrade or compress sound. When DC or HF is detected at the input, the amplifier mutes until the error condition is corrected.

The output signal is constantly compared to the input, so that, in the presence of a difference which exceeds predetermined limits (typically a short circuit condition), the

amplifier mutes until the error condition has been corrected.

Heatsink temperature is constantly monitored by a thermistor. In the event of overheating (temperature in excess of 90° C), the amplifier will shut down. Normal operation will resume when a safe operating temperature is reached.

Exterior

Non-magnetic materials are employed throughout, the only exception being the mechanically isolated transformer housing which incorporates a special epoxy resin to optimise transformer vibration damping.

The faceplate is machined from a solid 40 mm black acrylic block. An LED display provides continuous information on Class A status and AC condition.

With the exception of the faceplate, the Antileon exterior consists entirely of brushed, black anodized aluminum. Allen screws are countersunk for clean appearance.

The special top cover nameplate has the serial number engraved and may be returned to the factory for engraving of the owner's name at no additional charge.



preamp is muted. If the user turns the volume control down to position 6, the Elektra will automatically instruct the amplifier to bias to 75%, 75 watts of pure Class A. If the volume is set at zero, the Antileon will go to idle (50%), 50 Watts Class A.

While Green bias does not offer the extreme low power consumption of Class A/B, or even the low power consumption of "auto-biasing" systems, it does offer signifi-

For more information, please accept our cordial invitation to visit the showroom of your nearest authorized Gryphon dealer.