

AWARDS

2012 Product of the Year P R E A M P L I F I E R

Robert Koda Takumi K-10

\$31,000
www.robert-koda.com

The K-10 is at the upper end of the price spectrum for a linestage, especially one with only four inputs and no remote. Yet it is built with the bespoke attention paid to a six figure Swiss timepiece or Rolls Royce. Every component painstakingly hand matched and assembled in a vault-like enclosure, sonically and mechanically.

Best of all, the K-10 delivers the goods, producing music in an uncolored nature that will puzzle even the most seasoned audiophile as to circuit design and type of active devices employed. It is pure music.



AWARDS

2012 Product of the Year A M P L I F I E R

Pass Labs XA200.5 monoblocks

\$44,000/pair
www.passlabs.com

Pass Labs is a company that quietly goes about the business of building fantastic amplifiers. Most of its customers love the company's products, thus they rarely turn up on the secondary market. Designer Nelson Pass has more basic technology patents than any other amp designer on the planet and he believes in great sound *and* ultra reliability—which is a good thing, because you don't want to pick up the tab to ship these monsters back to Pass. (They weigh 159 pound each.)

Our publisher's reference now for the better part of the year, these Class-A monoblocks run warm, and present an almost vacuum-tube-like sound with the heft and control that is exclusively the domain of solid state.

