

Pass Labs XP-25

Every time our reviewer Anthony H. Cordesman has felt that analog electronics have reached a point of diminishing returns, and he would be better off investing only in speakers or front-end



equipment, someone has gone out and proved him embarrassingly wrong. Pass Labs, for example, with its XP-25. This top-line solid-state phonostage does push the cost envelope, and most audiophiles may have to opt for Pass's less expensive XP-15 (\$3800), or something far cheaper than that. At the same time, it is the quietest, most musically realistic phono preamp AHC has yet heard, and it provides a series of frontpanel gain and loading choices that make it remarkably easy to adjust to a given cartridge and a given system. It may push the price tag, but it also pushes the state of the art in ways that

quickly become addictive.



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