

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Attention

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QUAD

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A Legend Reborn

Quad launches its first-ever integrated valve amplifier

Quad is delighted to announce the launch of its first-ever integrated valve amplifier. The Quad II Classic Integrated follows the same design principles as the original Quad II mono power amplifier launched in 1953, evolving this bone fide classic into a fully integrated stereo amplifier for the very first time.

Designed by Quad founder Peter Walker, the truly iconic Quad II helped to define the modern concept of high-fidelity sound in the 1950s. Quad has kept the legend alive with the current Quad II Classic, a faithful reproduction of the original valve monoblock with build quality and aesthetics lovingly updated for the modern era. The new Quad II Classic Integrated takes the concept a step further, fusing stereo pre-, power and phono amplification together within a single, beautifully designed chassis.

Like other recent Quad valve amplifiers, the Quad II Classic Integrated's circuit design is the work of Tim de Paravicini, a man widely acknowledged to be the UK's foremost valve amp designer. His design is faithful to Peter Walker's philosophy of cathode loading onto the output stage and fundamental simplicity of design, ensuring the new amp delivers the same wealth of detail and exquisite tone as its famous predecessor.

For Tim, the challenge was to deliver an amp that embraces Quad's design heritage and status as 'audio royalty' – after all, Quad is the only hi-fi brand to have received the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement – whilst also acknowledging the requirements of valve amplification in the 21st century. The amp had to delight the Quad faithful – even those who would raise eyebrows at the very concept of a Quad valve 'integrated' – whilst also attracting new custom to the Quad brand. It had to be compact, robust and easy to maintain, delivering genuine Quad quality in a single, convenient chassis.

The result is unmistakably Quad in its appearance, yet it is also pleasingly petite, with a footprint of only 210x380mm. It stays true to the original Quad II monoblocks in its push-pull KT66 output configuration and single-tap output transformers, yet it's actually twice as powerful – it's conservatively rated at 25W per channel. This increase in power owes everything to Tim's ingenuity, and the lessons learnt in the 57 years since Quad's revered classic first came to be. The fact that Tim has succeeded in combining stereo power amplification, preamplification and a phono stage of such innate quality in a chassis of such modest dimensions speaks volumes for his remarkable powers of valve amp design.

"The amp section had to be more powerful, and it had to be compact enough and user-friendly enough to attract new customers," said Tim, commenting on the desire to create a Quad valve amp fit for the 21st century. "The output valves are run more conservatively, yet it produces a genuine 25W per channel. It goes loud without going to pieces. The HT is increased but the critical-voltage-to-screen grid is lowered to enhance reliability."

The Quad II Classic Integrated's preamp section delivers three line inputs, plus full tape monitoring. Every detail is engineered to the highest standard; even the built-in phono stage is of higher quality than many costly standalone devices, ensuring that every musical source, from vinyl to digital, is delivered with exceptional panache.

Indeed, the Quad II Classic Integrated sounds scintillating, whatever you feed it. Silky smooth yet exquisitely detailed, it combines delicacy and poise with power and authority, showing an all-round ability that's as comfortable with driving rock or a full-tilt orchestra as it is with the space and texture of an acoustic ensemble. It captures the energy of music in

effortless fashion, revealing the true character of each instrument and voice within a soundstage that's rock-solid and three-dimensional. Truly, this is high-fidelity sound at its beguiling best.

The Quad II Classic Integrated is available now, priced at £4,500.

Quad II Classic Integrated: Key Features

- **Valves:** 4x KT66; 4x ECC88; 2x ECC83
- **Inputs:** 3x line level; 1x MM/MC phono (selectable); tape monitor
- **Output:** 25W per channel into 8 ohms
- **THD:** 0.06% @ 13 watts (700Hz)
- **Noise:** Better than -95dB
- **Frequency response:** 20Hz – 20kHz
- **Crosstalk:** Better than 75dB
- **Gain:** 34dB
- **Dimensions:** 200x210x380mm (HxWxD)

Quad Classic Series: 2010 Valve Amplification Range

- **Quad II Classic Integrated** integrated amplifier
- **Quad II Classic** mono power amplifier
- **Quad II-forty** mono power amplifier
- **Quad II-eighty** mono power amplifier
- **Quad QC-twentyfour** line-only preamplifier
- **Quad QC-24P** phono stage

Q U A D

Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, Quad boasts the longest and most distinguished history. The company has been at the cutting edge of audio since 1936, continually pushing back the boundaries of performance with technologies both new and established. In 1953, the Quad II valve amplifier was launched, setting new standards for audio amplification, and three years later Quad invented the first full-range electrostatic speaker – later known as the legendary ESL 57.

Throughout the ensuing years, Quad products have continued to win worldwide acclaim, building a reputation for excellence that bears comparison with the most distinguished brands in any field. Quad has been part of the International Audio Group (IAG) since 1998, following its acquisition from the Verity Group (alongside Wharfedale). The company's design team and much-admired servicing department continue to be based in Cambridgeshire, England, supported by a number of key personnel who have worked for Quad for decades.

IAG's funding ensures that Quad's current range boasts many award-winning audio components, including the latest generation of ESL electrostatic speakers, class-leading valve amplifiers, dynamic 'box' speakers and the 99 Series – a range of solid-state audio electronics that fuses high-end performance with innovative connectivity. With several exciting new launches planned for 2010, Quad continues to be driven by the philosophy of its founder, Peter Walker, to produce "the closest approach to the original sound".

www.quad-hifi.co.uk

IAG

IAG (International Audio Group) is a manufacturer of audio equipment for domestic and professional use, plus professional lighting systems and luxury yachts. With its headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Asia and offices in the UK and North America, IAG is a manufacturer with a truly global reach.

IAG's audio business employs more than 2,000 people worldwide. Its factory complex in Shenzhen, China, is one of the largest custom-designed consumer electronics manufacturing facilities in the world and benefits from an exceptional level of vertical integration, with all component parts – even the tooling – made in-house. Each of the Group's five domestic audio brands – Audiolab, Castle Acoustics, Mission, Quad and Wharfedale – enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence, with British origins and an illustrious history that stretches back decades. Top-class British audio engineering remains critical to each of these brands, with world-renowned designer Peter Comeau leading an acoustic design team brimming with international talent.

The combination of rich brand heritage, purpose-built production facilities in China and experienced audio engineers from around the globe makes IAG a unique proposition in the world of consumer electronics.

www.iaguk.com



For more information, product samples and hi-res images, please contact:

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