

German “Hi-Fi Test” Design Edition 2003



With a history spanning more than 3 decades, Perreaux reputation as a manufacturer of high quality amplifiers is internationally renown. Having recently released the first of their new “Radiance” series of products, the new R200i and is already finding favour with audiophiles.

The company name suggests a French origin for this compact and extremely stylish stereo amplifier. The brand name is very strongly associated as being a “connoisseur” in their field with a strong heritage in professional recording studios, where their amplifiers retain an “iconic” status. These roots are still in evidence today with retaining significant influence through their distributor network into the professional recording studio market. Their wide experience in the studio market will undoubtedly be of assistance in their pursuit of a slice of the high-end consumer market, especially in light of the fact that some of the professional concepts embodied in their “Reference” series have been incorporated into the new “Radiance” series. Some of these benefits include ultra short signal paths and dual mono design for the ultimate in channel separation. Other details include custom wound toroidal ring transformers and non-magnetic chassis and cover showing careful attention to detail.

The R200i is totally hand made and appears aesthetically minimal and perfect. At first glance you only recognize the blue vacuum fluorescent display set within the oval shaped cutout and the engraved company name on the front of the R200i. No knobs are present. However while enjoying the beautiful sight of the black shimmering non-magnetic casing, I noticed 5 small pushbuttons inset within the milled central oval to the left and right of the blue display. These buttons allow for the uncomplicated use of every operational aspect of the unit, and there’s a huge amount of functionality built into the R200i. It is certainly



Kees de Kruyf,
Managing Director
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totally microprocessor controlled including such things as the selection of A & B loudspeakers! There are two sets of terminals per channel enabling the outputs of the R200i to be used for bi wiring or to control a second pair of loudspeakers. The well thought out menu with different levels for each function and adjustment is very comprehensive and nicely organized whilst not feeling complex. If you are used to operating logic, you could start immediately with the R200i. Stating the obvious, Perreaux has put a lot of thought into the development of their man/machine interface. Other manufacturers often poorly address this aspect in their designs.

The corners of the casework are rounded and happily also are the external cooling fins. This positive impression continues with the remote control. This little unit is unexpectedly heavy, a product of their own design and the weight distribution results in an ideal contact with the hand.



With ample features onboard, the R200i is not lacking in detail. The numerous and effective safety devices have all been carefully engineered as to have no effect on the sound of the product. All inputs are

assignable and when an input is selected the sound is instantly muted but slowly restored. The user can also call up an energy saver function from the software.

The name “Radiance” is associative with purity and even the solid casework mirrors the light! Our innermost hope associated with the name was fulfilled however as the real Radiance R200i was revealed in the studio. After a few minutes the “New Zealander” showed that he belongs to the “Top Range” of all amplifiers. In all different volumes the R200i is extremely quick, accurate and lively. He easily trembles the drumsticks and diaphragm. Referring so often as we do to amplifier electronics, the “control” that this unit displayed over any speaker is far and away out of its price range. It’s output power and total control is derived from its unlimited resources.

Consider a comparison with Boliden amplifiers and the harmless looking R200i, the question arises how does the R200i get its endless power and unshakeable load stability?

To select loudspeakers for the R200i is no problem for the owner, as he does not have to be bothered trying to select the right match. Such a high level compatibility to all levels of loudspeakers are rare to find.

Frequently within the lineup from various manufacturers, the amplifier is in an undervalued position. Surely all the components should be on one level, and the R200i gives the role a brand new position. It clearly demonstrates that a combination of high-end electronics with cheaper loudspeakers is definitely justified by the superior sound.

We were very impressed with the R200i and upon switching of the unit felt sad as the R200i display said “Goodbye”.

“The R200i is our personal tip for those who have extremely difficult loudspeakers”

Marius Donadello
(translated by Juergen Hacker)

Perreaux Radiance R200i

Profile

Distributor: Transform Audio, Rotterdam / NL
Telephone: 00 31 / (0) 10 / 20 99 06 1
Internet: www.perreaux.com

Specifications

Dimensions (W x H x D) 430 x 105 x 340 mm
Finish black chrome or satin chrome
Weight 13,5 kg
Warranty 1 year, optional 5 year
Inputs 2 x XLR, 3 x Line In Cinch,
1 x Phono Cinch, 1 x Remote Trigger Port
Outputs 1 x Cinch, 1 x Pre Out Cinch,
1 X Remote Trigger Port
Speaker Terminals 2 pair per channel
Power 8 Ohm / 4 Ohm 362 W / 203 W
Distortion, PCM Stereo (5 W, 8 Ohm) 0,016 %
Signal to Noise Ratio (unweighted) -94,6 dB (A)

Highlights

+ excellent sound quality
+ highly flexible and configurable
+ advanced design

Evaluation

Sound	70 %	1,1	██████████
Build	15 %	1,0	██████████
Practicality	15 %	1,0	██████████

HiFi Test TV-VIDEO Perreaux Radiance R200i

Reference Class
Price/Performance:
excellent

1,1