

BRYSTON



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VALUE  
MATTERS

THE DEMO  
IS  
EVERYTHING

# BRYSTON

## REVIEW Bi-200 - FRANCE

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## POWER PLUS SUBTLE BRYSTON MODEL Bi-200



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BUY**

### BRYSTON | BI-200

PLAISIR MUSICAL	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
FACILITÉ D'UTILISATION	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
QUALITÉ DE FABRICATION	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
RAPPORT PRIX/ÉMOTION	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

The new Bryston doesn't deny its professional origins, such as its entirely discreet, balanced, and dual-mono design, but it adds a touch of modernity and refinement to reach the upper echelons of music, and the select circle of the most desirable integrated amplifiers under €10,000.

The Canadian brand concentrates its expertise in a powerful, 100% analog integrated amplifier that delivers extremely musical performance in all circumstances.

With its rigorous and unadorned aesthetic, the impeccably finished Bi-200 is the fusion of the

excellent BP-19 (HF 270) preamplifier and the well-known 3B Cube. Designed without compromise, it features four RCA line inputs, two balanced, plus an analog RCA and XLR output, configurable as fixed or variable. Its power is substantial: 200W into 8 ohms, 300W into 4 ohms, and with very low distortion. This is the least one can expect from a Bryston.

### 100% Analog and Balanced

Its patented circuits, derived from Dr. Salomie's research, have been applied to the Cubed series, which are entirely made of pure Class A discrete components and feature incredibly low

# POWERFUL HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER



distortion. The fully balanced analog signal path uses matched components and an advanced quality control system, in a compact format, to achieve the lowest possible noise and superior common-mode noise rejection. The power stage uses Bryston's signature Quad-Complementary dual-mono circuit, biased in Class AB, yet offering near-Class A performance. It eliminates crossover distortion, improves transistor matching, and reduces output stage capacitance by a factor of four, significantly improving transient response and bandwidth.

## Digitally Controlled Volume

Previously, achieving a fully balanced input signal required a four-cage volume potentiometer. Today, the availability of new digitally controlled analog volume control chips allows for better muting than conventional leads, eliminating noise and improving transparency.

## Powerful Headphone Amplifier

The Bi-200 features Bryston's most powerful onboard headphone amplifier ever, delivering high output at low impedance to drive even the least sensitive headphones. It is derived from the

Bryston BHA-1 separate model, providing high-level transparency and dynamic range, benefiting the Bi-200.

## Legendary Reliability

The display's white LEDs indicate the active input and volume (in 0.5 dB steps); they can be dimmed, while the display automatically turns off after a set time. A soft-start microprocessor ensures circuit breakers are not tripped for greater reliability, and the Ethernet, USB, and RS232 ports allow for advanced status monitoring and easy software updates. Future upgrades are always possible with an optional DAC card.

Finally, the Bi-200 offers an optional MM phono stage (41 dB gain) and a high-performance MC module equipped with transformers with an additional 20 dB or 26 dB gain.

## Listening

The Bi-200 was listened to in Alain Choukroun's Hi-Fi 113 auditorium, drawing on his immense experience, connected to the very musical Harbeth Monitor 30s and the excellent Bryston BCD-3 CD player. A pure silver speaker cable made by Cédric Carlvann harmoniously completed the ensemble.

# BEAUTIFUL TRANSPARENCY

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## Strength and Delicacy

One expects generous power and a solid and deep bass from a Bryston, but somewhat less so for great timbral finesse. Yet this is the case with the Bi-200, without compromising its original qualities.

Thanks to its beautiful transparency, it allows the speakers to express themselves, allowing them to display their melodic tracking, sense of nuance, and harmonic richness across the entire bandwidth. No brutality or dryness is allowed here, but rather an ease with dynamic variations thanks to the consistency of





# NEVER STERILE OR ELECTRONIC

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the power supply, a Bryston tradition. Energy and speed drive the reproduction, very playful on Brian Blade's playing on Joshua Redman's *Live at the Village Vanguard*, on the sax always generous and lyrical. On intimate early music such as the magnificent *Consort of Fower Parts* by Matthew Locke, conducted by Jordi Savall (*Astrée*), we are seduced by the space reproduced, both airy and light. The instruments express themselves delicately, with a surprising truth, never sterile or electronic.

The Bi-200 envelops its power in a silken robe. A keen sense of realism The Bi-200 is never repetitive but always changing, ready to bring out the quality of the recordings. A carnal presence is expressed through good sound recording live, such as at the *Petit Journal Montparnasse*, during the duo Eddy Louiss and Michel Petrucciani, a photo of whom can be seen with the master of the house, as it turns out the illustrious pianist liked to frequent the auditorium.

The live performance conveys the perceptible presence of the audience, quick to react to the slightest antics of the artists, whose inspired dialogue is astonishing, faithfully translated by the Bryston. There's no need to turn up the volume, as the reduced background noise and the silence felt thanks to the balanced circuits allow you to listen at a moderate level without losing any detail. Whether it's

# DRIVES ANY SPEAKER WITH A VENGEANCE

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BRYSTON REVIEW

the essential Patricia Barber on the album *Live Companion*, recorded in 1999 at the Green Mill club in Chicago (she is also the daughter of Floyd Barber, a saxophonist with Glenn Miller's orchestra), or Mozart's Concerto for Two and Three Pianos, with Murray Perahia and Radu Lupu, accompanied by the English Chamber Orchestra, the Bi-200 unravels complex harmonic and rhythmic structures with ease, meeting musical demands with undeniable talent.

## VERDICT

This new classic yet contemporary integrated amplifier is perfectly in keeping with the brand's spirit. Briston succeeds in its creation because it is perfectly designed and built, displaying real expertise in analog electronics.

The budget follows the increase in performance, but the Bi-200 is ready to take on any speaker with a vengeance, without lacking elegance or openness.

The 20-year warranty remains valid, and the customizable front panel will even match your tastes.

- *The Bi-200 features four RCA & two XLR inputs, plus two RCA & one XLR output.*
- *The digital jacks are used solely for status monitoring and updates.*
- *The faceplate is available without a groove, and also in a champagne color.*
- *The chassis and trim are made of perfectly machined aluminum.*
- *The BR-4 remote control, made of the same metal, is included.*

