

JC 5 Stereo Power Amplifier by John Curl



The Halo JC 5 is Parasound's new, ultra-high performance, 400 watt per channel, Class A/AB, stereo power amplifier. We are very proud of this latest achievement of Parasound engineering in concert with legendary audio equipment designer John Curl.

Our reason for developing the JC 5

Our John Curl-designed Halo JC 1 mono block is acknowledged as the ultimate benchmark for amplifier performance and value. *Stereophile* awarded it 2003 Amplifier of the Year and has honored it as a Class A Recommended Component for fifteen years - far longer than any other audio product.

For years, Parasound customers and dealers around the world have petitioned us for an alternative amplifier: a John Curl-designed, Halo *stereo* power amplifier which would save them money and space. Developing a stereo amplifier in this league was a formidable challenge-the kind we relish. We challenged John Curl to distill the essence of *two* JC 1 mono blocks into a single chassis stereo amplifier with a more attractive price.

What we achieved

Our Halo JC 5 stereo amplifier is profoundly powerful and supremely musical. John Curl's signature appears discreetly on its front panel honoring his considerable role in its development. The JC 5 will delight the ears and wallets of serious audiophiles and music lovers alike. With exquisite performance and compelling value, the JC 5 *is* the new amplifier benchmark.

What's Inside Matters!

John Curl and Parasound's engineers insist that what's inside the JC 5 is even more exquisite than its exterior.

Rare original Toshiba J-FETs for ultra-quiet input stages

24 beta-matched Sanken bipolar output transistors provide 90 amps peak current per channel

Direct coupled & DC servos for full power down to 5 Hz

132,000 µF Rubycon filter capacitance for output stages

24k gold-on-gold internal audio connections

Left and right channel input stages use dual-mono ± 110 volt DC power supplies with 8,800 uF filter capacitance

1.7 kVA shielded toroid power transformer with independent windings for each channel





John Curl has been designing for Parasound since 1989. He was already a legend in the '70s for designing and building mixing consoles for The Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane. He designed the iconic Mark Levinson JC-2, Vendetta and Constellation phono stages and mic preamps and master recorders for Wilson Audio and Mobile Fidelity. Curl's inspired designs have earned Parasound world-wide acclaim and our stunning new JC 5 is certain to build on this storied heritage.



Power amplifiers must eliminate input stage distortion in order to avoid output stage distortion which is especially irritating to a listener. In typical power amplifiers the input and output stages share the same power supply. When driven hard their output stages' voltage will sag, dragging down the input stage voltage that's critical for preventing these distortions. A signature feature of the JC 5 (and JC 1) is a separate independent input stage power supply for each channel that is always 10 volts higher than the output stage voltage. Maintaining input stage voltage prevents distortion even under the most demanding conditions.



High current is essential for uncompromised sound. The JC 5 output (current) stage uses 24 Sanken 15A output transistors, carefully hand-matched for maximum performance. Their 60MHz bandwidth eliminates slew-rate distortion that robs music of its nuances. They operate in pure Class A up to 12 watts per channel, eliminating distortion that blurs music at lower listening levels. Eliminating noise at the input stage is also critical. The JC 5 uses rare Toshiba 2SJ74 J-FETs which are highly coveted for their ultra-low noise.



Every part within the JC 5 is carefully chosen for its accuracy, sound quality and long life. Its speaker terminals are new, developed in collaboration with CHK. Their ample size and wide spacing accommodates even the largest gauge speaker wire or spade connectors. High quality 24 K gold-plating on the speaker terminals, input connectors and internal audio signal connections assure sound quality that won't be compromised by corrosion.



- 400 watts x 2 @ 8 Ω RMS, both channels driven
- 600 watts x 2 @ 4 Ω RMS, both channels driven
- 1200 watts x 1@ 8 Ω RMS, in bridged mode
- Circuitry designed by legendary John Curl
- Ultra-high bias Class A/AB operation
- 12 watts per channel of pure Class A power
- 90 amperes peak current per channel
- Stable with speaker impedance dips to 1.5 Ω
- Dual-mono input stages with ±110 volt DC rails
- JFET input stage, MOSFET driver stage
- 24 beta-matched 15 ampere, 60 MHz bipolar output transistors
- 1.7 kVA shielded toroid power transformer w/ independent windings for each channel
- Balanced inputs with discrete circuits
- CHK Infinium, custom 5-way speaker binding posts
- Neutrik locking XLR input connectors
- Vampire gold-plated RCA input & loop output jacks
- Direct-coupled signal path, no capacitors or inductors
- DC Servo and relay protection circuits
- AC turn-on inrush surge protection with relay bypass
- Independent power supplies for left & right input stages, driver stages, output stages
- 8,880 μF Nichicon Gold Tune filter capacitors for input stages
- 132,000 µF Rubycon filter capacitors for output stages
- Full power is rated all the way down to 5Hz for unrestricted low-end bass
- Harris hyper-fast soft-recovery bridge diode rectifiers
- Automatic turn-on by 12 V trigger or audio sensing
- 4 rack space chassis with rear carry handles
- Rack mount hardware is included
- Also available in silver view online at www.parasound.com