

# 2016 Exceptional Value



## Pass Labs XA30.8 Power Amplifier

Review – Issue 78  
www.passlabs.com

Having used the \$85,000 Pass Xs 300 monoblocks for some time now as reference components, our enthusiasm for Pass Labs products is pretty evident. But not everyone has a spare \$85k lying about for a pair of monoblocks. If you have lesser dynamic requirements, fairly efficient speakers, but still want the gestalt of Pass at a reasonable price, the XA30.8 is your ticket to ride.

It's amazing how much of the Xs 300 DNA is present in this small (only 108 pound!!) Pass Class A power amplifier. Built to the same electronic and mechanical standard as the big boys, the XA30.8 has that same effortlessness and liquidity that is a hallmark of Pass amplifiers. And, it's got the big, circular, blue meter on the front panel too.

## dCS Rossini DAC and Clock

Review – Issue 77  
www.dcsLtd.co.uk

You might think we are entirely off our rockers awarding a nearly \$32,000 DAC/Clock combination an exceptional value award mad, but if you read the review in issue 77, we also took a close look at the dCS Elgar from nearly 20 years ago and it's still pretty awesome. As we're sure the Rossini will be.

For those who don't know, dCS takes a full blown software approach to processing and decoding, so over time, they merely send out a software or firmware update to keep you in the latest product. Where a chip and associated support can fall behind the curve pretty rapidly, the software updates to our Paganini has proved incredibly useful, providing a new digital experience with every one.

In addition, dCS also provides world class build quality and support. So if you make the investment, you can rest assured you're buying a player for life. That speaks major long term value to us.

