

2016 Product of the Year

PHONOSTAGE

Pass Xs Phono

www.passlabs.com

If you have multiple turntables or are considering multiple table/arm/cartridge combinations, we not only vote the Pass Xs Phono as our product of the year, but best phonostage period. After 12 years of not using the b-word irresponsibly, we've earned it.

Our review in this issue goes into more detail, but the Xs Phono does an amazing job at handling the delicate signal from the world's top cartridges; it's built like a bank vault and has a wide range of settings all on the front panel.

And with a maximum gain setting of 76dB, no cartridge is off the list. Much as we love vacuum tubes, they can be a bit dicey in a phonostage. Not only will you not have to hunt for spendy NOS tubes, the Xs Phono will always sound the same thanks to its solid-state design.

Three inputs take the Xs Phono over the top, and unlike other multi-input phonostages, Pass offers separate gain stages for each input, essentially giving you three separate phono preamplifiers on one chassis. Crazy.



Xs Phono