



Pre Amplifier Reviews



Kisto

avrev.com, USA, February 2006, February 2006

"...the Kisto is an engineering marvel. The upgradeable software takes a complex system and makes it more user-friendly than just about any other pre/pro on the market. I don't know why other products can be confusing in operation, but the Linn engineers did their homework. In conjunction with other Linn products, like the Unidisk 1.1, it doesn't get any easier than this. Put a disc in, push play, adjust the volume and you're off to nirvana, whether it be music or movies. Customizing the Kisto can create an incredible experience by integrating all aspects of your music and movie endeavors, such as lighting, screen operation or pulling the drapes closed. The sound quality of the Kisto is stellar, which is not surprising, since Linn has always excelled at music reproduction at the highest levels. Audiophiles who are reluctant to make the move to integrating their music-only system with a home theater experience might just want to check this out. If you're one of those folks with means who don't care about knobs and superfluous gizmos and want ease of use, a simple interface, high performance and something that is future proof with software upgrades, then this could be the product for you. I now know why Linn charges what they do, and if I had the cash (or a spare kidney to sell on eBay), I would own one.

Kisto

Positive-Feedback.com, USA, Brutus Awards 2004 , December 2004

The Linn Kisto is one of those rare "does it all" components that do massive input/output without compromising sound quality, functionality, or scalability. It can handle video I/O, audio I/O in both stereo and surround modes, and multiple rooms/whole house (via the Linn Knekt system). It's also massively programmable, auto-selects Dolby modes, handles just about any connector currently in favor. Surround sound lovers/home theatre owners (and concert DVD video lovers especially!) who can handle the price tag need to put the Linn Kisto on a very short list when it comes time for auditioning. The intelligence of design and performance of the Kisto is superb. In my experience, the Kisto is unique."

Kisto

Image Home Entertainment (Germany), March/April 2004 issue, February 2004

"Unlike many AV processors the Kisto is a true system controller for all components of a home entertainment network. Extremely well equipped, super easy to use with sound quality of the very highest order. No wonder, it's a Linn after all..."

Kinos

Digital Home Magazine, UK, April 2005

"...it's simply first rate all down the line. Partnered with some Linn amplification it offers one of the best movie experiences this side of the Empire Leicester Square. The real surprise comes when you start spinning CDs. The Kinos features the same two channel processing as featured in some of Linn's high-end pre-amplifiers, making it one of the best stereo performances we've heard from a multi-channel sound controller...the Kinos should lure in a lot more to the Linn way of living. An incredibly well-thought-out home cinema controller that majors in top-notch audio. First Rate." Digital Home Gold Award

Kinos

Stereoplay (Germany), November 2004

"...The KINOS is one of the very best AV preamps on the market today. Its sound quality far exceeds its price range and you'd be hard put to find a competitor of comparable musicality and subtlety. A clear STEREOPLAY HIGHLIGHT then, because you know "if it sounds better it is better!..." Verdict: Absolute Spitzenklasse. Value for money: extraordinary..."



EXOTIK multi-channel digital & analogue pre-amplifier (new)

Hi-Fi News, UK, April, 2007

" As this Exotik processor demonstrates, Linn can successfully engineer a 'universal' product that will act as the audio hub of any high quality multichannel music and movie system...the Exotik has both quality and pedigree in depth...the Exotik develops a wonderfully broad sense of scope, scale and spine-tingling atmosphere that's as palpable as I've heard. Add to this a finely-honed dialogue channel, free of sibilance but full of robust character, and Linn has cooked up a recipe for home cinema success in or out of the confines of an own-brand system."

EXOTIK multi-channel digital & analogue pre-amplifier (new)

EXOTIK Hi-Fi Choice, UK, March 2007

" Editor's Choice - Have Cake, eat it. A high quality analogue preamp with top-notch digital processing to boot? Oh yes, this is Linn's Exotik. This, then, is a high-quality preamp that's fully equipped for a multi-tasking role in a modern home entertainment system. With video sources like TV, movies and games it proves highly effective, with top-notch digital processing that's fit for the most exotic of sound systems. What's more, when it comes to straightforward stereo, it sounds better than just about any other preamp/processor we've heard."

Exotik

Hi-Fi World, UK, April 2006, March 2006

"The sound is high resolution in every sense..you can enjoy its superlative speed and dynamic ability; it takes big, inefficient loudspeakers (or any other for that matter), and pushes them out of themselves, forcing the music's rhythms and subtle emotional inflections out in a way that other top rivals can't. It's spry, vivid, engaging and musically all-of-a-piece...the Exotik/Chakra C2200 is a visceral and physical listen. Extremely taut and well resolved sound with great speed and dynamic alacrity plus superlative build and styling makes this a superb solid-state pre-power combination."

Exotik

Hifi & Musik, Sweden, March 2005

Linn Exotik Preamplifier/Linn 2250 Power Amplifier (group test with Naim NAC202 NAP 200 and AV Laboratory Series pre power) "This Linn combination provides focus and finesse with detailed open and articulated sound...tight bass and natural high end with a magnificent feeling...excellent precision....nice timing, proven by the amount of music you want to play..you just want to keep playing because of the fun...a real ear opener....musically engaging..paints a sound that invites the listener to explore all kinds of music regardless of musical style or recording.. the Linn combination is for listeners with high demands....where the musical quality must be absolute top class. Exotik is great value...Linn gives superior sound regardless of number of channels....more manufacturers should think in that direction..a well built and simple but functional design. BEST IN TEST."

Exotik

Exotik Preamplifier, Hi-Fi Choice UK , November 2004

"Linn may well have it right with the Exotik - whatever your needs..this is one of the most flexible multichannel preamps around. It is preternaturally detailed, capable analyzing and reproducing any sound from a source component and presenting it with a solidity and a sense of controlled, tight dynamics. This is also extended to the multichannel presentation...the same dry, detailed and focussed presentation in stereo is extended to all channels. With no change in character or performance, the Exotik suddenly becomes one of the best multichannel preamplifiers around. A very fine attempt to link multichannel and stereo. An extremely detailed and musical package. "

Exotik

Audio Magazine (Germany), November 2004

"...The EXOTIK is a very smart and great sounding preamp which can be easily upgraded to offer complete AV functionality. REFERENCE CLASS. Value for money: very good. The KLIMAX CHAKRA TWIN is an incredibly transparent and musical mega power plant of miniature dimensions. Linn's own CHAKRA technology works perfectly and absolutely seamless. The sound is elegant and colourful and at the same time powerful and mercilessly dynamic. A hit! REFERENCE CLASS. Value for money: extraordinary..."



Two Channel Pre Amplifier Reviews



MAJIK KONTROL Preamplifier

Stereoplay, Germany, August 2006, July 2006

"LESS IS MORE....In the lab the MAJIK KONTROL performed quite exceptionally.... Musically it's extremely involving and playing CDs it sounds even slightly better than it's formidable brother, EXOTIK.... Add to this an absolutely outstanding MM/MC stage and you have the ideal solution for analogue fans as well....The MAJIK 2100 easily delivers stable power into complex loads and it's multi-layered reproduction of fine detail and elegant musicality are very impressive indeed...Superb value for money...Stereoplay Highlight...But the best is yet to come: As a team, both MAJIK components make you forget all the technology and focus on music and nothing else..."

Klimax Kontrol

Audiovideorevolution.com, USA, Top 100 AV Products of 2004, December 2004

"Just like the CD12, the Linn Kontrol takes the audio preamp to the limits of analog technology."

Klimax Kontrol

Stereotimes.com, USA, December 2004

"It is simply the finest preamp I have ever used. Strongly recommended if you can afford it. If you can't try harder."

Klimax Kontrol

Hi-Fi Choice, UK, The Collection issue , August 2004

"It is one of the loudest, tightest and best controlled combinations...grabbing hold of any speaker and keeping it in absolute check. If you like a tight, precise and accurate sound, chock full of detail and yet essentially musical, the Klimax components are among the best products money can buy. These days Linn is often likened to B&O for the elegance of its product line, but the Klimax kit eclipses that. It has Porsche elegance and speed combined with Apple polish and the reputation of Rolex. You don't just buy the Klimax kit, you buy the dream too."

Klimax Kontrol

Klimax Kontrol Preamplifier/Klimax Twin Stereo Power Amplifier Onsoundandmusic.com (USA), February 2004

"With its brother, the Linn "Klimax Kontrol," there is a discernibly liquid quality to music . . . it is seductively delicate even as powerful orchestra passages boom and reverberate. This quality is enticing and a little bit mysterious, as if Linn has found the means, in the companionship of these two units, to reveal sonic truth with a voice that captures previously unnoticed layers of interior relaxation in the recorded ambience."

Klimax Kontrol

Positive Feedback Online, USA, Issue 11 , January 2004

"The Kontrol worked flawlessly from start to finish, never caused any problems, never overheated, never overloaded, and never sounded stressed. It didn't buzz, hum, or draw attention to itself, other than in its sculpted visual beauty. There was not one single moment of frustration, trying to debug some problem. For seven months it simply provided gain, switching, and stayed out of the way of the signal. I now add the Linn Klimax Kontrol reference preamp as the 2003 Brutus Award winner for solid state preamplification. Clean, clear, and neutral; beautiful to behold; wonderful to listen through, the Kontrol rates a "Ye Olde Editor's Very Highest Recommendation. High purity, high utility. World class!"

Klimax Kontrol

Onsoundandmusic.com (USA), January 2004

"The Kontrol is just that good at disappearing. It is "not there" at all when you send musical signals through it. No Linn, no preamp box. Just audio in and out. Sonic transparency. A bloody mystery this. A frickin' marvel. Something on this side of magic and that side of the loony bin. I mean you try to figure it out, after decades of hearing great and near-great audio preamplifiers of this or that stripe or sheen, why this stupidly, beautifully, cleverly designed, highly innocent looking (not very big) audio box works so well. Which is to say, is so invisible in the work of audio signal delivery... That's the deal. You cannot hear what it's doing. You just know it makes your other components stand up and be counted."



LINN

Klimax Kontrol

Linn Klimax Kontrol Reference Preamplifier Hi-Fi Choice UK , February 2003

Linn's Kompletion of the Klimax range is possibly its pinnacle - the Kontrol is an extremely fine piece of audio engineering wrapped up in one of the most elegant boxes in the business...its strengths cover all aspects from imaging to dynamics and from timing to transparency..play familiar - very familiar material and you'll hear the finest details fully resolved while the fundamentals take on a life and solidity that brings a broad grin to the reviewer's weary visage...it doesn't get much better than this.

Klimax Kontrol

Klimax Kontrol Two Channel Reference Preamplifier Review Hi-Fi World Magazine, UK , February 2003

"Immediately, the Kontrol has the unmistakable sheen of high-end audio electronics. By this, I mean super-clean, transparent and totally inoffensive but also smooth...this is Linn as an unashamedly high-end contender, and to a certain extent how the brand is recognised in the US. A very expensive preamp but highly effective and superbly designed. Build and facilities are faultless."

Klimax Kontrol

Audiophile, Germany, January 2003

"...When I first heard the Klimax Solos two years ago the sound was overwhelming with incredible speed, extreme transparency and breathtaking precision. Now with the Klimax Kontrol their superior musical virtues are even more apparent and I am even more enthusiastic. Very, very few "Big Boys" offer more power, none can handle dynamic transients with comparable speed and accuracy. In many ways these ingenious Linn amplifiers set new standards. State of the art..."

Klimax Kontrol

Stereoplay (Germany), November 2002

"...No other preamp in this price range offers comparable groove and credibility. A kolossal performance!..."

Klimax Kontrol

Stereoplay (Germany), November 2002

"...And how do Kontrol, Solo and CD12 sound as a combination? There's a simple answer: Stereoplay does not know a more coherent, a more natural, a better system..."

