

somewhere: Threshold's top-of-the-line amplifiers are expensive and have the sound to match; whereas the CAS-2 is smaller, lighter in weight, less expensive, and not quite the sonic equal of its big brothers. To swipe an appropriate quote, "Life's tough."

In this instance, that means not all of us can afford the most expensive audio components, and we must temper our appetites with the right blend of price and quality. The situation with almost all consumable goods is analogous. Most of us probably wouldn't mind owning a Ferrari or a Rolls Royce, but few of us

could afford one. However, we wouldn't want to be riding around in a motorized wheelbarrow either; therefore, we must pick something in between the two extremes. The CAS-2 is one of these "in between" products. It's not the absolute best, but it need make no apologies for its performance.

**Manufactured by:** Threshold Corp., 1832 Tribute Rd., Suite E, Sacramento, CA 95815 / **Serial Number:** C27905003 / **Associated Components:** 2, 3, 5, 24, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 / **Listening Room:** A & B / **Price:** \$990.

## Connoisseur BD-102

The name "Connoisseur", that has been given to a group of components by a British manufacturer, is a bit ironic, perhaps even misleading. The word "Connoisseur" implies a product of exceptional quality, a "money is no object" component. The BD-102 turntable, like all Connoisseur products is built with strict economy in mind. It is not out intention to berate the BD-102 because of its name, but rather to put in perspective the level at which the unit competes in the audio marketplace.

The BD-102 is an integrated turntable unit which comes complete with a base, dust cover, and either the SAU-2 (double-gimbal) or SAU-4 (unpivot) tone arm.\* The platter is belt driven by an AC synchronous motor which is attached in a flexible mounting. A rubber band affixed to the bottom of the motor counteracts the pull of the belt. The base of the BD-102 is inexpensively made of

genuine plastic-covered particle board. The base includes a removable bottom with spring-loaded rubber feet.

The SAU-2 is a straight, fairly low mass, double-gimbal tone arm. It works well with most magnetic cartridges of the medium to high compliance variety. Because of its short length, the SAU-2 inherently has a greater lateral tracking error at certain places on the record than do longer arms. We do not recommend the use of moving-coil cartridges with the SAU-2 because the cable supplied with the arm is not shielded well enough to prevent hum pickup from other components. We tried to replace the cable, but we found that the base of the BD-102 is too shallow to allow the use of any other cable besides the one supplied.

The BD-102 is a completely manual device except for an automatic trigger that causes the arm to lift at the end of the record. This feature operates by means of a magnet attached to the arm that triggers a reed switch hidden in the cueing

\*Our test unit came supplied with the SAU-2 arm.