

ROKSAN ROK-L2

There is significant channel balance deterioration at low volume settings, but with no headphone socket fitted you may never encounter this problem in practice!



Test results	Roksan ROK-L2 pre-amp *		
Distortion	20Hz	1kHz	20kHz
Total harmonic distortion	102dB	102dB	93dB
At 0.5V o/p, aux i/p			
Intermod, 19/20kHz, at 0.5V o/p			
Aux i/p		107dB	
Disc (mm)			
Disc (mc)			
Noise			
Disc (mm) input (IHF, CCIR wtd)			
Disc (mc) input (IHF, CCIR wtd)			
Aux/CD i/p (IHF, CCIR wtd)			98dB
Residual, unwt'd (vol control at min)			105dB
DC o/p offset	left = 0mV, right = 0mV		
DC o/p offset, tape	left = 0mV, right = 0mV		
Input overload (dB)	20Hz	1kHz	20kHz
Disc (mm) input (IHF)			
Disc (mc) input (IHF)			
Aux/CD input (IHF)	+18.7dB	+18.7dB	-19dB
Stereo separation			
Aux input	101dB	83dB	58dB
Volume/balance tracking	0dB	-20dB	-60dB
Aux i/p	0.01dB	0.75dB	6.4dB
Output	Level 1.17V Impedance 24ohm		
(CD input - output for 0.5V at max vol)			
Input data	Sensitivity Loading Phase		
Aux	215mV 52k-ohm/21.0pF correct		
Disc i/p (RCA ref 1kHz)			
30Hz to 15kHz			
Line	±0		
	-0.5dB 3.5Hz - 27.5kHz,		
	-3dB 1.1Hz - 77kHz		
	43.2 x 32.5 x 7.8cm (h x w x d)		
Dimensions overall	£995 inc plug-in		
Typical price (inc VAT)	PSU, DS1 supply £695		

* tested with DS1 power supply: see text

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remarkable for the way it preserves dynamic relationships without squash and without loss of resolution, though again there is that characteristic slightly flat depth plane and a bass whose weight and authority are never quite exploited to the full.

MEASUREMENTS

On the whole the numbers showed a great deal of consistency with the ROK-M1 and L1, with only the expected losses. For example, continuous power is down from 21.36 (21.3)dBW/8(4)ohm to 18.6 (16.25)dBW, with comparable reductions in short-term delivery. In other words, power holds up well into normal loads and deteriorates slightly into low impedances, though with 11A of peak current on tap the Roksan could hardly be described as limited. Though good, signal/noise was a little lower than the M1, though harmonic distortion of the cheaper amplifier was actually a little better all round. DC offset is not quite negligible but was not high enough to worry about, either in theory or in practice, though it may account for a number of mains fuses which blew on test at power on, though never whilst music was being played. Note the high input sensitivity which, combined with its 30k input impedance, makes the S1 a good choice for use with passive

pre-amps and volume controls.

The pre-amp also gives an excellent set of figures, those for channel separation and overload being below the standards of the ROK-L2, though both noise and distortion are superior. Neither hum nor noise was ever apparent on test.

Input impedance is close to ideal at 52kohm, and the output is taken from a suitably low source impedance of 24ohms. There is significant channel balance deterioration at low volume settings, but with no headphone socket fitted you may never encounter this problem in practice!

CONCLUSION

Although it's hard to describe the sound of this amp closely, it is fair to say that it has a lively and spacious sound, with excellent stereo resolution and a high level of detail. The slightly flat, characterless quality referred to in the review of the senior model is less apparent here, and I felt this new model was particularly good at letting the music speak with its own voice - though it's fair to say that separately and in combination the 'budget' Roksan lacks the weight and image depth of some other big amplifiers. It is a particularly confident and agile sounding amplifier however, and has excellent timing; and it neither baulks nor sags under stress. ↗

Radlett Audio

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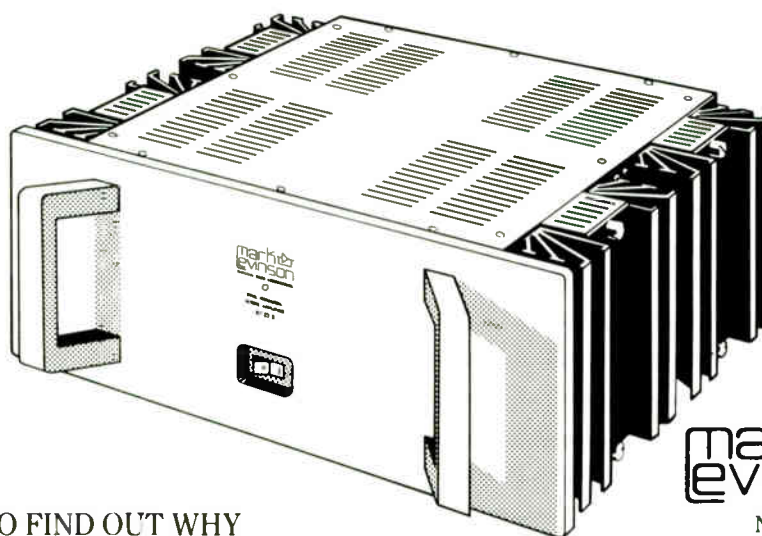
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