

# Hooked on Classic

HAVING LAUNCHED THE XR LINE OF PRODUCTS, CYRUS HAS NOW TURNED ITS ATTENTION BACK TO ITS CORE RANGE OF 'SHOEBOX' DESIGNS. ED SELLEY'S BEEN LISTENING TO THE CLASSIC AMP

**Over the last few years, Cyrus has been actively engaged in increasing the size of their range. First there was the ONE Series of integrated amplifiers, which takes the same basic platform and offers different functionality, to broaden the more affordable end. More recently, the XR series of products moved the company into new price points and the Cyrus i7 XR integrated amplifier proved very impressive when we reviewed it in HiFICRITIC July-September '21. At the time, I expressed a degree of confusion that the 'i7' cost more than the 8 Series amp but assumed this would be revised in time.**

As it transpires, the revision to the 'core' range is a little more thorough than that. The 6 and 8 Series monikers will be phased out and replaced by a single 'Classic' Series of products. Something to look out for in the future is the first BluOS based streamer from the company, which should be a significant step forward over its previous efforts, but the initial offering is the £2595 Classic PRE preamplifier, and the Classic AMP integrated we have here, selling for £1995.

The specification of the Classic AMP is entirely in keeping with what might be expected in 2022: four RCA line inputs are supported by a single set of RCA preouts, and there's also a moving magnet phono stage fitted as standard. This appears to be materially identical to the one fitted to the XR amplifiers, developed in turn from the Phono Signature Phono stage. The board in question is a good one and has delivered excellent performance for me on the occasions I have tested it.

The analogue connections are joined by a digital board. This is the older 'QXR' type, simpler than the one in the XR amplifiers, and has two optical and two coaxial inputs that all make use of an ESS DAC

to offer a maximum sample rate of 192kHz/24bit. The lack of USB is a shame, but no less of a mystery is the omission of Bluetooth: Cyrus has an excellent implementation in the ONE HD amp and it's a feature encountered fairly frequently on integrated amps at this sort of price point.

The inputs are made available to a Class A/B power amp via an analogue preamplifier with rotary encoder type volume control, and as in the XR Series amps, Cyrus has used relay input selection and an electrically separated power supply. In the time-honoured Cyrus tradition, this can be bypassed and the preamp powered entirely by a PSX-R2 external PSU, with the main 304VA toroid in the Classic Amp then being used for the power amp only. The PSX-R2 is a direct descendent of the original PSX and delivers a filtered and smoothed DC output which takes a feed from a toroidal PSU barely smaller than the one being used in the amp itself. A sample PSX-R2 was supplied for testing along with the Classic AMP.

The power amp here is rated at 91 watts into 6 ohms which equates to 70 watts into 8, a figure rather closer to the output of the more expensive

