

SOUNDSTREAM[®]

T E C H N O L O G I E S

REFERENCE AMPLIFIER

TEST REPORT

All over the world, great magazines have been putting the new Soundstream Reference amplifiers to the test. They've been poked and prodded, frozen and abused, driven hard and put away wet.

The results:

Reference amplifiers live up to their name – *they are the finest car audio amplifiers in the world!*



REFERENCE200

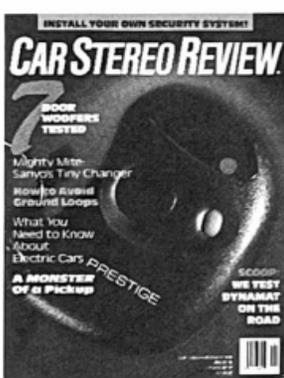
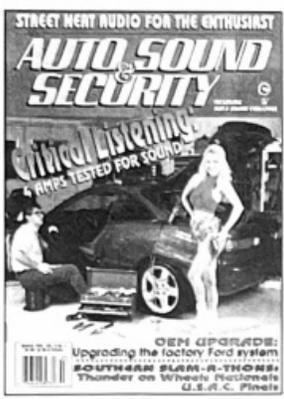


“the Soundstream amplifier is superb.”
“Soundstream Reference200: a racing beast.”
“an American amp with talent”
“well designed and engineered input.”

“To be quite frank, the Reference200 “breaks loose.” It has a most impressive bass response and is well controlled, too. The sound is detailed while never forgetting to remain musical and have a lot of depth.”

“Keeps its promise and takes its place among the finest electronics available on 4 wheels in the market”

“Advantages: • The Sound • The Bass • Its Look”



ffwd

"The dude's a diva"

CAR STEREO

& SECURITY

REFERENCE200



"one of America's finest mobile power amps"

"when you halve the impedance, the power more or less doubles. You can go on doing this down to impedances as low as 1 ohm, when the output power is 100W per channel."

"And those are proper RMS watts as well, not funny peak-music-power-for-microseconds watts. Believe it or not, the Soundstream will even deliver usable power into impedances as low as half an ohm"

"Claimed power output is "25W" into 4 ohms, and in actual fact we saw 31.2W into 4 ohms"

"Testing into 2 ohm and 1 ohm loads produced 61.7 and 109W respectively"

"In 2 ohm bridged mode the Reference200 served up 233W. All these figures are comfortably in excess of those in the spec, which is encouraging."

"the Soundstream amplifier is built to a very high standard. The main PCB is a slice of glass-epoxy double-sided

stuff which looks like MIL-spec and is beautifully silk-screened. There isn't really anything to criticize: the thing is fairly gorgeous inside and meets the highest standards, no argument."

"Overall, the internals of the Soundstream are a delight to behold."

the Reference200 is one of those amplifiers you can listen to for hours on end without getting tired."

"excellent control and delivery in the bass, a brilliantly clean and realistic mid-range and a very open and airy treble. No-one on the panel had a bad word to say about the Soundstream device."

Summing Up

"Overall verdict? A very, very good amplifier. I wonder what its bigger brethren sound like. Memo to Basshead - one for next year's awards short-list."

"**SOUND:** Lovely, no criticisms at all"

"**BUILD:** Delectable"

"**VALUE:** For this order of performance, very good"

"**VERDICT:** The dude's a diva"

car audio

AND ELECTRONICS



REFERENCE300

"ahead of all the others in sound quality"

"the best value"

STEREO DRIVE

REFERENCE300

"Soundstream really deserves the name Reference"

"The Reference300 is a very "clean" amplifier"

"A "SOUND" AMPLIFIER"

"The Reference300 delivered 2 x 96 Watts @ 4 Ohms and 2 x 126 Watts @ 2 Ohms"



"Measured data can look great, but of course the superior sound quality tells us even more about the amp. Soundstream's Reference300 doesn't disappoint at all! The sound is fantastic and once again we conclude that we hold on to the statement that Soundstream manufactures real "musical" amplifiers. For sound quality as well as for imaging this amp scores nearly 100%"

"Reference300 deserves a good pair of speakers; weak points will get noticed when using this great amplifier."

"Fantastic amplifier, that puts the former Stereo Drive reference amp back to second place. The Precision Power 2075 must acknowledge the superiority of the new REFERENCE amp"

CAR STEREO REVIEW®

REFERENCE500



"Soundstream's design philosophy pursues sound quality first and good specs second, but you'd never know it from perusing the results of the Reference500's lab outing. Frequency response, S/N, THD plus noise, channel separation, and damping factor were all excellent."

"it's very rare to see such consistently excellent numbers across the board."

"What's really cool though, is that the 500 lets you choose between two modes of operation: high power, and high current. The former is a high-voltage/low-current mode that's designed for use with loads of 1 to 8 ohms."

"The high-current mode turns things around, operating with low voltage and high current; it's ideal for driving loads below 1 ohm." Why is this so cool? Because it effectively makes the 500 two amps in one. You can use it in the high-power mode as you would any amp, or you can use it as a "cheater" amp at a sound-off, getting a huge amount of power despite its relatively modest high-current power ratings. This is an extremely clever design that defines flexibility and defies obsolescence."

"Construction quality is excellent throughout."

"The 500 was designed by amp guru Wade Stewart, and he deserves a raise."

"14.4-volt power (output at clipping): 80 watts x 2 into 8 ohms,

"GOOD: Huge flexibility, impeccable construction, smart bass-management system, excellent sound quality."

"BAD: Nada."

"BOTTOM LINE: A terrific amp whether you compete at sound-offs or not."

144 x 2 into 4 ohms, 224.7 x 2 into 2 ohms; 288.5 x 1 into 8 ohms, 445.2 x 1 into 4 ohms, 598.6 x 1 into 2 ohms"

"12-volt power (output at clipping): 76.3 watts x 2 into 8 ohms, 139.2 into 4 ohms, 220.5 x 2 into 2 ohms; 271.4 x 1 into 8 ohms, 441 x 1 into 4 ohms, 578 x 1 into 2 ohms"

"The output is just as impressive: I got 144 watts in stereo with 14.4 volts, and bridged-mono power into 2 ohms measured 598.6 watts! People take off their clothes and dance naked in the streets when assaulted with this much power-uh, well, that's what I've heard. If you consider yourself a true car audiophile, get your butt down to your local car-fi shop and check this baby out."

"the 500's sound quality was dead on. There's simply no mistaking an amp that keeps itself behind the scenes and lets the music do the talking, and the 500 is just such an amp. I was also impressed with more subtle stuff such as the system's imaging and soundstage; again, the 500 didn't interfere with the hi-fi reproduction of music in any way."

"the 500's bass response was downright excellent. It had absolutely no difficulties reproducing fast, hard-hitting low-frequency material of all persuasions."

"The real challenge, of course, is whether an amp can pump out big bass at high power levels. Once again, the 500 breezed through my evaluation; clearly, its 125-watt-per-channel rating is on the conservative side. And the sound remained extremely clean and effortless."

"the Reference500 stands ready, willing, and able to pump out more clean watts than normal human beings will ever need. The circuit design is expert, Soundstream didn't skimp on high-quality components, and the construction techniques are first-rate. The 500 is an essentially transparent device, realizing the goal of all high-end amps: It does nothing to your music except make it much, much louder. As such, it defines what hi-fi amplification is all about. From all indications, the name "Reference Series" may be an understatement."

Car stereo

REFERENCE CLASS A 3.0



"We should be grateful to Soundstream: it managed to make class A amplifiers pleasant."

"With the Class A series (two models, 6.0 and 3.0), the American company has managed to obviate all the drawbacks at a reasonable price,"

"small size, high reliability, easy-to-interface."

"How many watts does the object of our test, Class A 3.0, deliver? Only a few, 2x25 at 4 ohms, according to the manufacturer's specifications (but they are actually much more). However, these watts are destined to double, triple and quadruple and even sextuple if it is true that on a 1/2 ohm load Class A 3.0 reaches a total of 300 watts. This is what the manufacturer says and Car Stereo confirms it: at 2 ohms in bridged configuration (the amplifier has 1 ohm load), 300 watts have been reached and exceeded."

"Another advantageous expedient for power supply: the terminal boards - beautiful, golden, massive terminal boards which Soundstream uses - are directly bolted on the printed circuit

board. No cables, no wires, no welds which might worsen contact quality and cause dispersions."

"It has one of the most powerful final output sections we have ever come across, capable of dissipating 960 watts of power. The exclamation mark - which the clear-sighted compiler should use with moderation - is now needed!"

"You can see the implementation level. We deal with the "Everest" of circuits, with the "Gioconda" of electronics: printed in blue vetronite with metalized holes in compliance with military standards (marvelous), excellent components, not even one wire in turn, meticulous care during manufacture (Class A 3.0 is strictly hand made in the USA). If it is true - and it is true - that looks also count, they are served."

"Can fire turn into water? Can white look black? It happens in some cases like, for instance, with this Class A 3.0. The price is undoubtedly little for this amplifier which works in Class A, sounds as it sounds, is manufactured as it is manufactured and, especially, is called Soundstream. Fire turns into water and then the price becomes absolutely reasonable."

"With the Soundstream Class A 3.0 we deal with the Everest of circuits, we deal with the Gioconda of electronics. The quality of components and manufacture is Guinness record type."

"Marvelous. How else can the 3.0 circuit be defined?"

AUTO SOUND & SECURITY

REFERENCE CLASS A 6.0

"The Soundstream Class A 6.0 was my favorite sounding amplifier."

"The Soundstream was tonally excellent on the reproduction of the tuba and the other bass instruments. The Soundstream Class A had a wonderful open, spacious, smooth and warm sound."

"When it came to the detail, and clarity in the high end, listening to the Soundstream . . . great."



"THE RAP UP"

"The Soundstream Class A 6.0 was my favorite sounding amplifier. It produced a very wonderful smoothness and "tube" like sonic warmth. The Class A 6.0 reproduced the intricate detail in the surrounding room ambiance and music. The brass instrument reproductions were tonally excellent with a live warmth to the instruments."

"While listening to the Soundstream, I found myself enjoying the musical reproduction of the test program material and forgetting to take notes. So, I would have to restart the track and concentrate on the test. For me, this is the mark of a great sounding component, in that the amplifier becomes so transparent to the overall sound that the amplifier was not what I was listening to and the music was Fah-bew-luss."

RAVE REVIEWS ON OTHER SOUNDSTREAM PRODUCTS!

PETERSEN'S AUTOtrONICS

GRANITE 120.4

"Any way you slice them you'll want three basic things from power sources: Clean, solid wattage; robust, reliable operation; and a compact, well-designed package that's easy to configure and install. The Granite 120.4 from Soundstream Technologies delivers all of these."



arrangement Soundstream dubs Chassisink. The 120.4's design and assembly give every indication of a rugged, trouble-free unit."

"Installing the Soundstream 120.4 was perfectly straightforward."

"There's virtually no hand-wiring: good-quality parts, including metal-film resistors throughout and better-than-average input trim pots are evident. Mechanical construction is very solid. The power-supply and output transistors are sandwiched between the PC boards and the massive, one-piece, extruded aluminum heat-sink/chassis top, an

"Soundstream lit up and worked fine from the first day and survived a week of work under some of the nastiest winter weather in recent memory."

"test results from the Soundstream Granite 120.4 confirmed its performance well within and sometimes exceeding its maker's specifications affirming its identity as a solidly designed, no-frills, high-performance component."

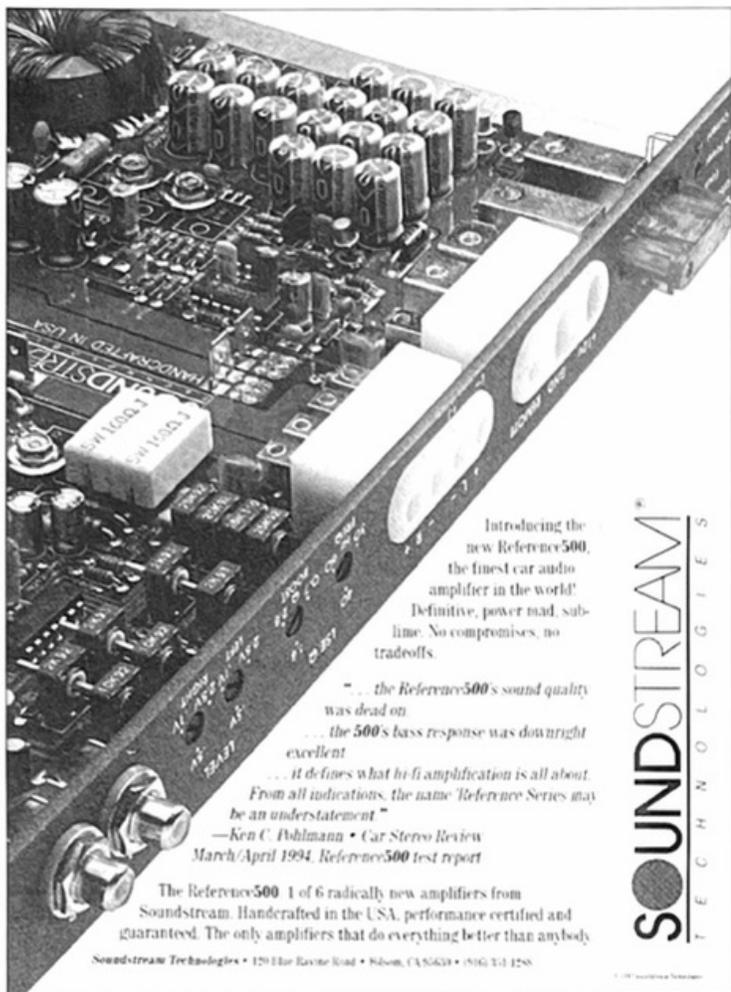
"you'll probably never know the Soundstream isn't a top-dollar unit."

"The sound was very clean with lots of transient snap and detail even on high-level, complex musical material. The 120.4 appeared to produce plenty of reserve power for musical transients and sounded fast, clean and punchy with virtually every sort of music thrown at it."

"the Soundstream amplifiers's thermal protection system worked without fail during the testing procedures. It would shut down the 120.4's outputs after a few moments of severe test-bench abuse, automatically resetting after the unit had a chance to cool off."

"Nor was noise ever an audible problem. The 120.4 sounded just about dead-quiet under all listening conditions, even when playing widely dynamic solo piano CD's while parked and idling. This should be true of any well-designed amplifier, but it's by no means universal among car audio designs, even today."

"Soundstream's Granite 120.4 is an excellent power choice in any system when solid, high-value performance is more important than snob-appeal or meaningless numbers."



Introducing the new Reference 500, the finest car audio amplifier in the world! Definitive, power mad, sublime. No compromises, no tradeoffs.

"...the Reference 500's sound quality was dead on... the 500's bass response was downright excellent... it defines what hi-fi amplification is all about. From all indications, the name 'Reference Series' may be an understatement."

—Ken C. Pohlmann • Car Stereo Review
March/April 1994, Reference 500 test report

The Reference 500 1 of 6 radically new amplifiers from Soundstream. Handcrafted in the USA, performance certified and guaranteed. The only amplifiers that do everything better than anybody.

Soundstream Technologies • 120 Blue Ravine Road • Folsom, CA 95630 • (916) 351-1200

SOUNDSTREAM
TECHNOLOGIES

SOUNDSTREAM
180.6

SOUNDSTREAM
120.4 GRANITE Amplifier

SOUNDSTREAM
110.2 GRANITE

SOUNDSTREAM
60.2 GRANITE

FOR THE DISCRIMINATING METALHEAD!

With fiscal responsibility and headbanging the hot new sports of the 90's, you either adapt or die. Soundstream Granite lets you shred your inhibitions without breaking the bank!

For the slam dancer in all of us: Raw Power, Flexibility and Musical Finesse

For the boozecounter: A Righteous Price.

- Up to 200 watts of power
- 2, 4, or 6-channel amplifiers to fit any application
- Variable Bass EQ/Boost (110.2)
- Dual discrete Class A Drive stages
- 2 ohm stable, bridgeable and mixed mono capable for maximum flexibility
- Discrete Darlington outputs, military spec circuit boards, and metal film resistors
- Built in staggered frequency electronic crossovers (180.6, 120.4, 110.2)
- Gold-plated RCA and high current connectors
- Four-way protection without current limiting
- Balancing Act noise cancellation
- Drive Delay™ muted here on

Granite power. Built in California by the Reference amplifier people at Soundstream.

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Soundstream Technologies, 120 Blue Ravine Road, Folsom, CA 95630 • tel 916.351.1200, fax 916.351.0404 • In Canada, Inter International • 416.871.8008

REFERENCE 405

The Second Coming...

First came Reference — the world's finest 2-channel amplifiers. Definitive. Powermad. Sublime.

Now comes the Reference 405.

400 watts of continuous power (4 x 40 front, rear and 1 x 240 sub).

Choice of High Power (4 ohm) or High Current (for ultra low impedances).

Power Grid™ Power Supply incorporating 18 high speed capacitors for massive storage and ultra low ESR.

Five Class A High Current Discrete Drive Stages.

Independent front and rear crossovers with 12 dB/octave high pass and 24 dB/octave subwoofer low pass.

The Reference 405 — the second coming of the Reference amplifier. Soundstream has put it all together.

All the power! All the versatility! And all the high quality sound you expect from a Soundstream amplifier.

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REFERENCE 500

Introducing the new Reference 500, the finest car audio amplifier in the world! Definitive, power mad, sublime. No compromises, no tradeoffs.

- 500 watts continuous into 1 ohm
- Mixed mono or Coherent Stereo
- Full power output down to 1/2 ohm
- LSE-Q maximizes output in any subwoofer
- 1920 watt Darlington Power Array™ with 24 high speed output devices
- Serviceable for standard High Power or High Current competition performance

The Reference 500 1 of 5 radically new amplifiers from Soundstream. Handcrafted in the USA, performance certified and guaranteed. The only amplifiers that do everything better than anybody.

TEAM GLOBAL

SOUNDSTREAM
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GRANITE STUDIO P51

"Soundstream P51s from the Granite line came forward as the clear favorite. A one-inch dome tweeter with flush, surface and an angled-mount kit combined with a 5.25-inch bass/midrange plus a passive crossover, complete an attractive kit with 50 watts continuous power handling and a 60Hz-20kHz nominal range.

These were described as real smoothies that belie their price."



"Soundstream didn't have to work that hard to overcome the opposition"

"The Soundstream tweeters also showed greater versatility."

"Perhaps we don't have to say (you've probably already guessed anyway), that they were "infinitely the best" speakers of this current test group."

"run along to your local Soundstream specialist for more confident and assured performance which is so pleasing to the ears."

"what proved to be the main course of this speaker group test"

CAR STEREO REVIEW®

SOUNDSTREAM SS10R



material, the SS10R delivered clean bass punches with lots of definition and no annoying overhang."

"the image never drifted"

"If you want to set this mother up for rapping, be prepared to meet and greet the Men in Blue: You'll definitely be receiving some citations for disturbing the peace."

"Awesome!"

"The SS10 delivered good, clean bass punches with lots of definition."

"THE INSTALL—"Easy, easy, easy."

"So, how did it sound? Just freakin' great. The SS10 is outrageously powerful."

"Recorded thunderclaps didn't bother the SS10R at all; it behaved itself completely, and had every loose body part in my CRX rattling away. Organ notes had a great rumble factor. On more standard

"GOOD: Great sound, gets very low, compatible with smallish boxes."

"BAD: Nada"

"BOTTOM LINE: An outrageously powerful sub that's easy to work with."

"NOW, YOU'LL HAVE to excuse me. I gotta go... I need to ask the editors when we're going to test the SS12R. Yo, 'stream."

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