

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Classé

CA-M400

Yes, it costs \$12,000. And being a monobloc power amp, you'll be needing two for stereo. (If you're thinking surround, we'd love to meet your bank manager.) As a mark of prowess, these amps are used by Abbey Road Studios in a number of their rooms, and in Sydney studios too – the units we reviewed had previously amplified the penguins of *Happy Feet!*

Aesthetics on the Canadian Classé are simple, clean and elegant – a thick and solid aluminium fascia with a contrasting black-anodised control panel off-centre. It takes line-level or XLR balanced inputs (switchable via the front panel or RS232 – this is a system-control-friendly amp), with two sets of speaker outputs provided, should you wish to biwire.

Rated at 400W into eight ohms, they have enough in reserve to handle the most dynamic music with complete control, while sounding free, accurate in detail and spatially massive. Bass guitar and stand-up bass packed

a real punch, the massive custom toroidal transformers within proving their worth. Superb build, top-notch sound; Highly Commended.

More info: www.e-hifi.com.au

