



Marantz Model 30

WINNER INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

Marantz released two vital products recently; the SACD 30n CD/SACD player and the Model 30 integrated amplifier. Both are innovative and sophisticated, but where the SACD 30n is a combination network streamer and disc player (and, let's be honest... there are a lot of those), the Model 30 is that rare thing in the 2020s; a good sounding integrated amplifier that isn't packed with digital bells and whistles.

This is a compact 100W Class D design featuring tone and balance controls and an MM/MC phono stage. Like its disc and streaming partner, the Model 30 has a quilted front panel, with a raised central section that's back-lit from the sides. It has a good headphone amplifier on board with a 6.35mm jack socket and a comprehensive remote... even though Marantz includes all the basic controls you need to operate the amplifier on the front panel. In short, it's a classic integrated amplifier with just the right amount of modern aesthetic.

In our test of both player and amp, Jimmy Hughes praised the amp, saying, "The Marantz Model 30 is a bit like freshly-squeezed orange juice compared to fizzy orange squash. It offers a purer, truer flavour without false excitement or drama, yet delivers the music with great integrity that involves and moves the listener."

He also felt that "It's neat and compact, yet delivers music with impressive clarity and precision. I like its focus and ability to deliver detail without seeming splashy or edgy." Jimmy is not a big fan of Class D sound in general, saying "I sometimes wonder if there's a slight lack of top-end openness with Class D." However, the Marantz Model 30 was more musically adept than most other Class D designs he has encountered, saying, "I love the 'nothing added, nothing taken away' clarity of the sound." He concluded that, "I find both Marantz 30 models especially good at low dynamic levels. The music retains focus and solidity, and never gets smeared."

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