



KRELL K300i-D 150w class-A iBias Integrated amp with Streaming DAC

KL 03 IA K300D

NZ\$16,995.00 ea (incl. GST)



FINISHED IN SILVER BRUSHED ALUMINIUM FINISH. IT EASILY DRIVES OUR MAGNIFICENT WILSON BENESCH ACT-ONE EVO SPEAKERS (RRP \$40,000/pr). IT IS NICELY RUN-IN READY TO AMAZE YOU, IT'S OPEN AND POWERFUL WITH SUPERB DETAIL AND MICRO DYNAMICS AND GREAT BASS CONTROL WITH JUST THE RIGHT TOUCH OF CLASS-A RICHNESS. THIS IS A VERY VERSATILE INTEGRATED AMP WITH STREAMING ON-BOARD AND HDMI & OPTICAL INPUTS, YOU CAN PLUG TV STRAIGHT INTO IT FOR GREAT STEREO AND GREAT TV WITH NO COMPROMISE, NOTHING NEAR THIS PRICE POINT COMES CLOSE..... READ THE AWESOME REVIEWS

Krell Industrie's NEW GENERATION K-300i / K300iD Integrated Amplifiers

Amplifier legend Krell Industries has announced its new K-300i Integrated amplifier which boasts newly developed amplifier circuit with Krell iBias that can deliver 150w @ 8ohms and 300w @ 4 ohms.

Greatly revised iBias provides the sonic benefit of Class A operation without the excessive heat and power consumption of traditional class A designs.

*"Krell Performance is as always, not only with endless power, but also has a balance in sound staging and performance that places it **among the best audiophile amplifiers available**. Thanks to the digital module and other amenities, this is a real all-rounder."..... PowerHouse Mag (Germany)*

*"All I can say is WOW! I have never, and I repeat **never, in over 30 years of professional audio sales and system design, heard a solid state product like this before**. The phrase "tube like" has been bandied about for years when you have a solid state product that strives to recreate some of the magic of modern tube electronics, however, with the new K-300i, which I understand was the inspiration for the XD upgraded Duo, Chorus and Solo amplifiers series, you have actually done it! **There is an organic wholeness and lack of grain to the sound which once you experience it, you know in an instant, this is not your typical solid state Hifi gear**" Dave Lalin, - Audio Doctor*

"This integrated amplifier lacks almost nothing - actually it is almost an all-in-one device. The Krell pulverises my prejudices almost from the first note, it fills me with great joy when listening to music"..... Stephan Schmid - i-fidelity.net

The K-300i also boasts a 770VA Transformer and 80,000 uF capacitance for excellent signal control and dynamics. Krell Current Mode topology is used with fully differential circuitry that runs from the input stage through to the last output gain stage proving and extremely linear and extended frequency response curve with smooth, effortless highs and extremely dynamic bass energy.

There are two versions available the "Classic" and the "Digital" the latter comes with a world class DAC featuring support for the latest digital music formats. An ESS Sabre Pro DAC configured for high current output performs the digital to analogue conversion for an uncompromised audio reproduction. A network streaming audio renderer with dedicated mobile App plays AAC, ALAC, AIFF, FLAC, WAV and WMA Files with DoP files supported to 192kHz/24Bit from UPnP music servers or Nas devices.

With the "Digital" option the Krell is both MQA and Roon Ready along with Spotify, Tidal, Deezer, Qobuz and vTuner Radio streaming services being supported

There are HDMI inputs and outputs supporting 4K UHD and HDR to allow audiophile grade sound quality integration into Home Cinema systems. A single USB port is available on the front panel with other USB ports on the rear for user friendly option to stream music from any computer and there is also a Bluetooth Receiver with aptX Technology

The K-300i has an internal web server that is optimised for tablets and provides a remote graphical user interface for convenient and intuitive control.

The KRELL Promise

The new K300i-XD competes with the very best out there that cost significantly more. The price is attributed to our decision to source main boards from US factories only, so we could ensure highest quality, reliability and performance worthy of the Krell brand, to enable us to bring Krell back to its place at the top once again.

When developing the K-300i-XD, David Goodman, our Director of Product Development, whom has been with Krell since 1987 and was largely responsible for design work on all Krell products, discovered that with modifications to the output stage, we could vastly improve sound quality, across the board, to all of our amplifiers.

The Result

A deeper, darker, blacker background that provided significantly better macro and micro dynamics, more silence between the notes. Vocals and midrange took on an organic, yet more vibrant tone, enabling us to hear much more body, and even though our amps were great before, there was a very significant improvement.

The speakers disappeared; yet, instruments were more focused with appropriate size and specific soundstage locations. All in all, a much better sounding, much improved experience that was easily, immediately heard by all that listened.

Renowned American amp brand, Krell Industries, has just unleashed the K-300i Integrated Amplifier .

Krell made an impact with their KAV-300i integrated amplifier in 1999. Today, they are hoping that the all-new K-300i integrated will find similarly enthusiastic fans.

The 18.2kg K-300i incorporates a newly developed amplifier circuit design featuring Krell iBias tech. This delivers 150 Watts per channel into 8 Ohms and 300 Watts per channel into 4 Ohms. Additionally, iBias provides the sonic loveliness of Class A but without the traditional accompaniment of excessive heat and power consumption. Regarding power, there is a 770VA transformer with 80,000 microfarads of capacitance. The upshot of all that is excellent signal control and dynamics.

Furthermore, with Krell Current Mode topology employed with fully differential circuitry running from the input stage through to the last output gain stage, we are told that we can expect an “extremely linear and extended frequency response curve with smooth, effortless highs and extremely dynamic bass energy”.

Analogue connections include two pairs of balanced XLR and three pairs of RCA on the input side, whereas outputs are catered for by two pairs of speaker binding posts and a single pair of RCA to run to a preamp.

Upgrade the analogue unit with the digital option, and you get the benefit of an ESS Sabre Pro DAC and networked streaming audio renderer with a dedicated mobile application.

The K-300i's internal web server is optimised for tablets and hands the user convenient and intuitive control. The player is compatible with the latest digital audio formats including AAC, ALAC, AIFF, FLAC, WAV and DoP files up to 192kHz/24-bit from UPnP music servers or NAS devices.

The digital option also provides Spotify, vTuner Internet Radio, Tidal, Deezer, and QoBuz streaming services. Good news it is also Roon Ready and will decode MQA.

Connectivity-wise, the digital module brings HDMI 2.0 inputs and output supporting 4K UHD with HDR for audiophile-grade TV viewing. Upfront is a USB port enabling playback from flash drives. There is another USB port around the rear so that you can stream music directly from a laptop or computer. Wireless fans also are served by aptX Bluetooth. Rounding off the digital inputs are a coax and an optical port.

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The technical explanation from David:

“The “XD” update to the Chorus/Duo/Solo/K300i amplifiers reduces the output impedance to less than half of its original value. This lower output impedance better damps unwanted speaker vibrational modes. Changing the output impedance also necessitated re-compensating each amplifier stage to achieve optimal critically damped transient response. This ensures that the amplifier accurately follows the dynamics of the input signal.”

This New XD update has been applied to the entire lineup of Krell amplifier. All amplifiers, aside from internal modifications, will have an “XD” silk screened on to the left front panel to denote the change.

COOL RUNNING KRELL:

Nearly 40 years after Krell’s iconic Class A power amps hit the high-end, the company looks to be offering far less ‘brutal’ designs. When its iBias output stage technology was introduced [HFN Oct ’14] the company suggested it was doing its part to modernise flagship hi-fi, increasing its appeal to consumers who were not as accepting of bulky intrusions into their living spaces as dyed-in-the-wool audiophiles. Now, as then, Krell claims that its iBias circuit technique combines the ‘sonic benefits of Class A operation without the heat and power consumption of traditional Class A designs’. In practical terms, rather than maintain a constant, high standing current (or bias) in the output stage – the brute-force, but wasteful, Class A approach to eliminating NPN/PNP transistor crossover distortion – these iBias amplifiers spontaneously adjust the bias to suit the music signal. This sliding bias technology differs from Technics’ ‘New Class A’ and JVC’s ‘Super-A’ regimes promoted through the 1980s because, in the K-300i, bias is calculated from a direct measure of the current delivered by the output stage. As a result it incorporates your choice of speaker – with its distinctive sensitivity and impedance vs. frequency trend – into the calculation of required bias. PM

Features

- When it comes to high-end solid-state amps, no manufacturer is more revered or influential than Connecticut-based Krell
- The K-300i is the latest in a long line of class-leading integrated amps – the simplest and most affordable way to own a Krell amplifier
- Newly developed amp circuit incorporates the latest version of Krell’s iBias technology
- iBias delivers the sonic purity of Class A operation without the excessive heat and power consumption of traditional Class A designs
- Krell Current Mode topology, with fully differential circuitry from input to output, ensures an extremely linear and extended frequency response
- 770VA transformer lies at the heart of the amp’s prodigious power supply, enabling precise, unerring signal control and effortless dynamic range
- Power output rated at 150W per channel into 8 ohms, doubling to 300W per channel into 4 ohms
- Two versions available: a classic version with purely analogue inputs (RCA/XLR) and a fully featured ‘digital’ version that adds digital inputs and streaming
- Integrated high-end DAC section utilises ESS Sabre Pro chipset
- Includes UPnP network streaming and aptX Bluetooth reception, as well as optical, coaxial, USB and HDMI digital inputs and an HDMI output
- Supports a wide range of file formats and streaming platforms, including Spotify Connect, Tidal, Deezer, Qobuz and vTuner
- Also decodes MQA files and is Roon Ready
- The K-300i has an internal web server that is optimised for tablets and provides a remote graphical user interface for convenient and intuitive control.

Specifications

Analog Inputs

- 2 pr. balanced via XLR connectors
- 3 pr. single-ended via RCA connectors

Digital Inputs *(only on K300D Digital model)*

- 1 EIAJ Toslink Optical
- 1 S/PDIF Coax
- 2 HDMI (HDMI 2.0a, HDCP 2.2) + 1 HDMI Output
- 1 USB-A (USB 2.0 host)
- 1 USB-B (USB 2.0 audio device)
- 1 Bluetooth with aptX

Outputs

- 1 pr. preamp outputs via RCA connectors
- 1 pr. speaker outputs via gold-plated binding posts

Control inputs

- 1 RS-232 input via 9-pin D-subminiature connector
- 1 remote IR detector input via 3-conductor 3.5 mm connector
- 1 12 VDC trigger input via 2-conductor 3.5 mm connector

Control output

- 1 12 VDC trigger output (60 mA maximum current) via 2-conductor 3.5 mm connector

Input impedance

- Balanced: 16 k Ω
- Single-ended: 8 k Ω

Frequency response

- 20 Hz to 20 kHz +0, -0.22 dB
- <10Hz to 100kHz +0, -0.57 dB

Signal-to-noise ratio

- >104 dB, wideband, unweighted, at 2V RMS in balanced, referred to full power output
- >117 dB, "A"-weighted

Gain

- 25 dB, referenced to 2V RMS in balanced and full power output

Input Overload

- 10.4 V RMS Balanced
- 6.8 V RMS Single-ended

Total harmonic distortion

- <0.015%, 1 kHz, 150 W, 8 Ω load
- <0.08%, 20 kHz, 150 W, 8 Ω load

Output power

- 150 W RMS per channel at 8 Ω
- 300 W RMS per channel at 4 Ω

Output voltage

- 98 V peak to peak
- 34.6 V RMS

Slew rate

- 46 V/ μ s

Output impedance

<0.023 ?, 20 Hz
<0.035 ?, 20 Hz to 20 kHz

Damping factor
>347, 20 Hz, referred to 8 ?
>228, 20 Hz to 20 kHz, referred to 8 ?

Power consumption
Standby: 11 W
Idle: 46 W
Maximum: 900 W

Heat output
Standby: 37 BTU/hr
Idle: 156 BTU/hr
Maximum: 3060 BTU/hr

Dimensions
438W x 105H x 457D mm

Weight
As shipped: 27.3 kg

Digital Module Specs
Coaxial and HDMI inputs support PCM up to 24-bit/192kHz. Optical input up to 24-bit/96kHz
HDMI inputs support DSD and 4K video content. HDMI output supports Audio Return Channel (ARC)
USB and Network streaming support MP3, AAC, WMA, WAV(PCM), FLAC, ALAC up to 192kHz
Bluetooth streaming supports A2DP, AVRCP, HFP,
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Award

"Yes, it is in the upper price bracket. On the other hand, when will I own a Picasso painting? K-300i is a work of art, and moreover, a work of art that makes you enjoy other works of art in a truly breathtaking way. Imagine if painters made great paintings for centuries but kept them under a veil that only hinted at their true beauty. Suddenly somebody comes around and pulls the veil away and lets you see the paintings in their full glory, every stroke of the brush and every speck of paint. K-300i did that for me, for the music. Get it if you can." - SOUNDSTAGE - "PRODUCT of the YEAR award 2019"

Review

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Conclusion: Yes, it is in the upper price bracket. On the other hand, when will I own a Picasso painting? K-300i is a work of art, and moreover, a work of art that makes you enjoy other works of art in a truly breathtaking way. Imagine if painters made great paintings for centuries but kept them under a veil that only hinted at their true beauty. Suddenly somebody comes around and pulls the veil away and lets you see the paintings in their full glory, every stroke of the brush and every speck of paint. K-300i did that for me for the music. Get it if you can.

Link

<http://www.audioreference.co.nz/product/krell-k300i-d-150w-class-ibias-integrated-amp-streaming-dac>