


**AUDIO  
FILE**

Two-box power amplifier. Rated at 1000W/8ohm  
 Made by: Musical Fidelity Ltd  
 Supplied by: Musical Fidelity Ltd  
 Telephone: 0208 900 2866  
 Web: www.musicalfidelity.com



# Musical Fidelity Titan (£20,000)

Leading from the top of this amplifier's trump card specification sheet is the £20,000 price tag, followed closely by the two-box design and claimed delivery of 1kW into an 8ohm load. Reading the spec-sheet alone does little to prepare you for the sheer size, weight and physical presence of the two-box Titan. It is massive, with a combined weight over 110kg, each unit boasting a footprint the size of a small chest of drawers.

Sitting side-by-side you have two enormous works of art in milled aluminium – low, wide and deep.

**'It immediately presented itself as nimble, incisive and with a sweet top end'**

Along with the fins that run the full length of all four cheeks, the styling aids cooling through a half dozen grilled ports in the top of each case.

The Titan is a pure dual-mono design in two cases, but rather than go down the route of two self-contained monoblocks, one of the Titan cases houses two discrete power supplies of epic proportion. The amplifier box is

about two-thirds the weight of the power supply and contains four power stages configured in discrete bridged pairs. It is equally extravagantly finished with balanced XLR and RCA inputs and dual locking speaker terminals that are beefy enough to tether a small ship. Everything is massive, solid and feels like it would last a lifetime of abuse, perhaps even two or three.

## SIMPLY HOOKED

Connected to a Sony SCD1 player via a balanced input we were hooked from the first notes. 'Blood Red River' from Beth Orton's *Central*

*Reservation* CD was etched into the room with breathtaking clarity, neatly crafting the subtle string-bass lines in a way that few other amplifiers

manage. The Titan immediately presented itself as nimble, incisive and blessed with a top end of remarkable sweetness and resolution. Ms Orton's quite ragged vocal was portrayed as rich with emotion, caressing with an enticing and deeply sexual quality.

The pivotal moment in this relationship was playing Antimatter's recent live CD

*Live @ An Club*. This intense recording of acoustic guitar and Mike Moss' intriguing vocal has an amazing rawness and vitality that flies against the trend for dynamic compression on modern recordings. Playing this CD through the Titan was an instantaneous transportation to the time and place. We were there in the crowd.

Such is the Titan's lucidity and separation of instruments through the midband, we were overcome with a strange urge to reconnect and set-up a favourite hi-fi ornament, a 1988 vintage Michell Gyrodek. The black disc's charms and top-end dynamic were so well presented by the Titan we found ourselves scheduling vinyl evenings into the diary before the amp's inevitable return to MF.

Whitesnake's bluesy rifts on the live album of *In The Heart Of The City* were carved into the room with sweeping scale, the Titan neatly recreating all the atmosphere of a packed Hammersmith Odeon.

As the track played out on its epic solo, any diehard rock fan would have to sit on his hands not to pick up an air guitar and squeeze out those last few chords.

Never have we heard a traditional amp which does everything quite so well. From the tightest of bottom-end notes right up into its extended top-end.

## VERDICT

Sophisticated and technically accomplished, this amp has every right to revel in the cliché of being an open window on the music. Stunning midrange lucidity and a potent yet always sprightly balance make for wonderful musicality and hi-fi magic of the highest order. ☺

**ABOVE: The milled fascia features what must be the most understated power button in amplifier history. At only 4mm in diameter it unleashes the Titan's 1kW/channel into 8ohm or 2kW into 4ohm**

## HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Power output (<1% THD, 8/4ohm)	1050W / 1996W
Dynamic power (<1% THD, 8/4/2/1ohm)	1060W / 2.1kW / 4.1kW / 5.9kW
Output impedance (20Hz–20kHz)	0.029–0.17ohm
Frequency response (20Hz–100kHz)	+0.0dB to –2.07dB
Input sensitivity (for 0dBW/1000W)	88mV / 2810mV (balanced)
A-wtd S/N ratio (re. 0dBW/1000W)	95.5dB / 125.5dB
Distortion (20Hz–20kHz, 10W/8ohm)	0.00046–0.0017%
Power consumption (Idle/Rated o/p)	110W/1600W (per channel)
Dimensions (WHD, amp/PSU)	483x185x635/615mm