



Allnic Audio L-6500

WINNER
PREAMPLIFIER



Allnic Audio's L-6500 preamplifier is a paragon of simplicity. This South Korean superstar uses a single gain stage in pure Class A, with one 5842 triode valve per channel and both channels fed by a single 7233 voltage regulator triode, held in check by a 5654 detector. This last is a rugged little pentode that was designed by General Electric in the mid-50s for military applications, so can withstand the high-speed on-again, off-again cycles of a cathode-follower circuit. However, while a cathode-follower is a low-cost, easy-to-design way of keeping output impedance low, Allnic has gone for the more robust approach of transformer coupling. While most companies are then beholden to a transformer manufacturer's designs, Allnic Audio's approach is to manufacture its own transformers and this allows the company to use permalloy (iron and nickel) in the transformer core.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt that, "music 'unfolds' when played through the L-6500, almost irrespective of what's being used up- and downstream." Adding that, "the preamplifier digs deep into the layers of music and presents them to the listener."

He also felt that "the L-6500's soundstage is extremely good, with its excellent stage depth being particularly noteworthy." Alan also praised the L-6500 for having, "a sound of texture and colour; a rich, harmonically beguiling sound that stays just the right side of 'sumptuous.'"

Alan concluded the review by saying, "It's hard not to be impressed by the L-6500; it's well built, sounds great and has an excellent balance of making music sound good no matter the quality of the recording. While the Allnic Audio L-6500 is far too much of a sophisticate to shout for itself, that's something to shout about!"

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