



Integrated hybrid amplifier. Rated at 160W/8ohm
 Made by: Musical Fidelity (Audio Tuning Vertriebs GmbH), Austria
 Supplied by: Henley Audio Ltd, UK
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 Price: £7999

AUDIO
FILE



Musical Fidelity Nu-Vista 600.2

The claimed 2x160W/8ohm output of Musical Fidelity's 600.2 is some way behind the 330W/8ohm rating of its flagship sibling, the 800.2 [HFN Aug '23], but only the most power-hungry audiophile would consider this integrated amp a lightweight. No 'mini me' model, its chunky aluminium chassis measures 483mm wide and 510mm deep, while it weighs in at 36kg.

It also adopts the fully balanced, dual-mono design of the 800.2, plus the nuvistor tube-based Class A line/preamp stage. Upgrades over the earlier 600 model, meanwhile, are comprehensive,

'The 600.2 maintains the rich sonic signature of the Nu-Vista series'

including a completely revised and streamlined PCB layout, higher quality polypropylene capacitors, and input-switching relays in place of the older model's IC-routing. More importantly, the power stage now leverages Musical Fidelity's Titan architecture, where each transistor (four per channel, here) has a corresponding 'high current'

bulk supply capacitor, allowing, says the brand, 'more immediate access to stored energy'.

Connectivity has also been bolstered. There are two balanced XLR line inputs, ensuring this model is instantly compatible with the Nu-Vista range's DAC and phono preamplifier. A balanced XLR preamp output has also been added, filling out a back panel that offers RCA line ins and fixed/variable outs, plus twin sets of speaker terminals for bi-wired set-ups.

VELVET VIBES

For those tempted by the 800.2 but unable to stretch to the price, the 600.2 is more than a consolation prize. It's not as powerful, but for those with less than cavernous rooms or moderately obliging speakers, what it provides in wattage is surely enough

– and it comes allied to a sound offering easy warmth and fluidity. The 600.2's big, musical pictures, often underpinned by rugged bass, are given a lush, velvety edge.

Alice In Chains 'All Secrets Known' [Black Gives Way To Blue; Parlophone] is a good system challenger – a dense recording of distorted guitars, thundering drums,

and vocal harmonies. The 600.2 built a soundstage full of fat, well-defined textures that revealed the low-end potential of the partnering speakers. The album's title track is less dense, with Elton John's guest spot on piano accompanied by strummed acoustic guitar and gentle bass. MF's amp brought a naturalness to the instrumental and vocal tones, plus an authenticity to minor dynamic flourishes, that made for an involving listen.

The 600.2's presentation of fine treble detail isn't emphatic, as shown by the percussion on The Monkees' 'Last Train To Clarksville' [Greatest Hits; Rhino]. Yet Davy Jones' chatty intro and vocals to 'Daydream Believer' were crisp and succinct, and by avoiding explicit HF sharpness, the 600.2 gave the ringing guitar of Robert Plant's 'If I Were A Carpenter' [Fate Of Nations; Es Paranza] a flowing, relaxed feel. Musical Fidelity talks of its Nu-Vista amps being 'calm and smooth' by design, and that's very evident here.

Of a completely different ilk is Lady Gaga's 'Disease' [Mayhem; Interscope], with its electronically sculpted beats. The 600.2 delivered each element with such power and punch that the track sounded ready to burst. Where before we'd been focusing on midrange tones and feel, now we were enjoying its exuberance and controlled, driving bass. Make no mistake: this all-analogue amp has all-round appeal.

VERDICT

The proverbial 'iron fist in a velvet glove', the 600.2 maintains the sonic signature of Musical Fidelity's Nu-Vista series. Shaped by those nuvistor tubes, its soundstages are big, rich and highly satisfying. ☺

ABOVE: Offered in silver and matt black colourways, the 600.2 has two huge rotaries governing source selection and volume with buttons for the display and 'lighting' modes. Inside, the 600.2 is built as two mono amps, with separate PSUs, a pair of 6S51N nuvistors and two pairs of Sanken output transistors per channel

HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Power output (<1% THD, 8/4ohm)	200W / 325W
Dynamic power (<1% THD, 8/4/2/1ohm)	255W / 465W / 800W / 360W
Output imp. (20Hz–20kHz/100kHz)	0.021–0.070ohm / 0.59ohm
Freq. resp. (20Hz–20kHz/100kHz)	–0.0dB to –0.21dB/–2.8dB
Input sensitivity (for 0dBW/160W)	41mV / 525mV
A-wtd S/N ratio (re. 0dBW/160W)	88.9dB / 110.9dB
Distortion (20Hz–20kHz, 10W/8ohm)	0.0021–0.0048%
Power consumption (Idle/Rated o/p)	70W / 585W (1W standby)
Dimensions (WHD) / Weight (each)	483x187x510mm / 36kg