

Product Announcement

Unison Research Announce Unico 90 Amplifier Ultra-linear integrated amplifier from the Italian valve masters.

Didcot, Oxfordshire – 21st August, 2017

In 2015, Italian valve specialists Unison Research renovated their Unico range of hybrid hi-fi electronics with the introduction of a new flagship. The Unico 150 integrated amplifier was born out of an extensive R&D process and utilised optimal electrical characteristics to achieve a true high-end sound performance. Now, the lessons learned in the development of the Unico 150 have resulted in the introduction of an alternative high-end offering.

The Unico 90 amplifier is a near-perfect amplifier, employing as few active amplification stages as possible to produce a clean musical signal that is true to the original source material. Where the more powerful flagship, Unico 150, has three active stages, the Unico 90 boasts lower power specifications but only uses a two-stage circuit with zero global feedback.



The Unico 90 is an integrated amplifier designed to accommodate a variety of sources via its three RCA and two XLR pair inputs. It's also designed to work in almost any application, with its fixed and variable RCA outputs as well as the bi-wirable speaker terminals. The large casework is built to the same exacting standards as previous Unico designs, but the Unico 90 borrows the same three-plate front fascia introduced with the Unico 150, which adds an aesthetic enhancement over its predecessors. Operation is simple and effortless via the large front-panel controls or the supplied RC2 system remote; but the minimalist exterior belies the high-end technology hidden within.

The whole pre-amplifier section of the Unico 90 is entirely passive. The ultra-smooth, ultra-silent ALPS volume dial is armoured at four points, allowing for even better channel separation when listening at high volumes. The input switching control decouples inactive source inputs, reducing cross-talk for optimal technical performance, and also employs miniature mechanical relays made to very fine tolerances for zero signal loss.

The sonic ability of the Unico 90 comes from its gain stage, which is controlled by the amplifier's valve section. The valve complement is made up of ECC83 tubes in double-triode totem pole configuration and ECC81 in parallel totem pole. The result of the circuitry effectively delivers six triodes per-channel with perfectly measured gain, near-flat distortion and minimal output impedance; while also providing sufficient power for the gain stage to be coupled directly to the output power stage. Inside the output stage, three pairs of HEXFETs are used per-channel.

The Unico 90 is a dual-mono amplifier, and three pairs of thermo-stable Class AB HEXFETs are used per-channel to provide a powerful-yet-controlled 160W (4Ω) audio signal. Thanks to this design, the Unico 90 is able to work with a wide variety of modern loudspeakers, including many more demanding designs.

The complex circuitry and accurate scientific principles employed throughout the Unico 90 are complimented by the purpose-designed transformer that needs no further thermal compensation, reducing the need for another active stage that so many amplifiers require. Similarly, all the capacitors found throughout the electronic circuit are specially selected for their excellent performance at very high frequencies and innate ability to exhibit very low levels of loss.

The Unico 90 has been created out of a highly technical Research & Development process by Unison Research, with thousands of tests and numerous prototypes being auditioned before the finished article arrived. However, by continually putting the audio performance first, the superlative technical standards employed inside make the Unico 90 a true high-end offering with unrivalled cosmetic, scientific and musical appeal.

The Unico 90 is available in the UK now.

It will be available in a Silver finish, or in Black for a £100.00 surcharge.

SRP £3,500.00

Technical Information

Output Power:	100 + 100W RMS (8Ω) 160 + 160W RMS (4Ω)
Frequency Response:	12Hz (-1dB) – 45kHz (-3dB)
Input Impedance:	21kΩ / 300pF
Input Sensitivity:	860mV RMS
Input Stage:	Pure Class A ECC83 Double-Triode (totem pole) and Pure Class A ECC81 (parallel totem pole)
Output Stage:	Class AB thermo-stable, complementary HEXFET (3 pairs per channel)
Line Inputs:	3 x RCA pair (unbalanced) 2 x XLR pair (balanced) 1 x Bypass RCA pair (unbalanced)
Line Outputs:	1 x Tape (fixed) 1 x Sub (volume controlled)
Output Connectors:	4 + 4 (bi-wiring)
Speaker Selection:	Recommended not to connect a load with minimum impedance < 2Ω*
Global Feedback Factor:	0dB
THD:	< 0.15% @ (1kHz, 1W) < 0.50% @ (1kHz, 10W)
Output Resistance:	< 0.4Ω (resistive on all audio frequencies)
Power Consumption:	550W (at max. power, 8Ω)
Dimensions:	43.5cm x 18cm x 44cm
Net Weight:	20kg

** The Unico 90 design has been based on a balance of features, and altering it would involve sacrifices in certain directions. Increasing the number of MOSFETs would permit the use of loudspeakers with impedances of < 2Ω, but this would compromise the consistency and linearity across the high frequencies.*

Notes for Editors

Consumer Contact for Publication

Henley Audio
Didcot, Oxfordshire

Tel: 01235 511 166
Email: sales@henleyaudio.co.uk
Web: www.henleyaudio.co.uk



About Unison Research

Unison Research was founded in 1987 by a small group of audiophile enthusiasts, and since that point the company has garnered a reputation as one of the world's leading valve-focused hi-fi companies. Based in Treviso, Italy, they have a strong focus on audiophile electronics with a particular tendency toward integrated amplifier designs.

The current Unison Research range is represented by the Valve and Unico series, with other accessories including phono stages and headphone amplifiers also available. There's something available for any system, and all products maintain the company's historical reputation of paying due diligence to both sound performance and aesthetic appeal. All internal components and almost all the external parts are locally sourced, while all R&D and assembly is still conducted in house; ensuring each item purchased has been hand-assembled and tested by an expert engineer with an intimate knowledge of good sound.



About Henley Audio

Everyone has a different interpretation of what good sound is, and at Henley Audio we're no different. We strive to bring customers the best possible selection of hi-fi equipment from a variety of international manufacturers.

Formed in 1997 as the result of a management buy-out of Ortofon UK, Henley Designs Ltd. (trading as Henley Audio) is one of the UK's premier distributors of quality hi-fi equipment. The brands we distribute are not only highly-regarded in their own right, but they also share a symbiotic relationship with other brands in our portfolio.

For more information, visit www.henleyaudio.co.uk

Press Contact

Simon Powell

Henley Audio, Unit B, Park 34, Collett, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7WB
Tel: 01235 511 166 Fax: 01235 511 266
Email: sp@henleyaudio.co.uk Web: www.henleyaudio.co.uk

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