

World's Best Phonostage: Aesthetix Io Eclipse Makes UK Debut

Aesthetix president and designer Jim White began his pursuit of the ultimate preamplifier design almost 20 years ago, introducing the Jupiter Series of preamps in 1994. The 'Io' phonostage and 'Callisto' linestage soon became industry benchmarks, only outclassed when their 'Signature' versions which followed set an even higher standard.

The Aesthetix Io is an all-valve phonostage suitable for the most demanding cartridges, including low-output moving coils. It has won numerous awards, receiving worldwide acclaim for its superior sound quality. No expense is spared to achieve the highest audio performance possible. The Io Eclipse is the ultimate realisation of the true capabilities of the Io.

The Eclipse casework is beautifully crafted from constrained-layer damped panels machined from aluminum billet, and sits upon four Harmonic Resolutions Systems' Nimbus Couplers specially made for Aesthetix. This design brings new levels of articulation and clarity, as well as providing excellent ventilation, thus improving longevity and reliability.

The bulk of the internal changes revolve around the new StealthCap™ from Peter Moncrief. Each individual StealthCap is painstakingly handcrafted using expensive exotic materials in order to optimise the radical Stealth Technology™. StealthCaps dramatically reduce corrupting signal reflections in the capacitor plate, just as stealth technology in aircraft reduces radar signal reflections.

The Io Eclipse is designed and engineered to deliver the highest attainable sound from a turntable. This is its sole purpose and is immediately apparent upon listening.

Excellent inter-transient silence preserves the inky blackness of the background, out of which a soundstage of stunning transparency, richness and holographic precision reveals a wealth of subtle musical information.

A complete lack of blurring and time smear ensures that all parts of each musical note cohere together and are articulately focused and united at the same moment, leading to stunning dynamic impact, incredible clarity and complete musical coherence.

Other phonostages and preamplifiers tend to add a layer of haze and blurring to the sound, the absence of which is immediately apparent on listening to the Io Eclipse.

Features: Aesthetix Io Eclipse

- High gain / low noise phonostage capable of handling low output moving coils
- Zero global feedback
- 80dB maximum gain
- Selectable loading from 10 Ω to 47 k Ω
- All valve amplification and output (16 valves)
- Separate valve regulated power supply (8 valves)
- Two sets of XLR and two sets of RCA outputs per channel
- Input can be either RCA or XLR
- Optional: Innovative and unique mechanically switched discrete resistor volume control with 46 positions using Roederstein resistors, one for each channel
- Single power supply as standard, optional second power supply may be added for true dual-mono
- Io Eclipse may be optionally configured with volume controls and a line level input ideal for feeding power amplifiers direct
- Io Eclipse may be ordered with custom finishes

All versions of Io can be factory upgraded to Eclipse.

Technical specifications: Aesthetix Io Eclipse

Inputs	One phono input (RCA and XLR)
Input (version with volume control)	One phono input (RCA or XLR) One line input (RCA or XLR)
Outputs	2 RCA unbalanced 1 XLR balanced
Gain	80 dB maximum
Volume control (optional)	46 step switched resistor network
Frequency response	Better than +/- 0.25 dB 20 Hz – 20 kHz
Signal to noise	70 dB minimum
Input impedance	10 Ω - 47 k Ω adjustable
Output impedance	1 k Ω single ended 600 Ω balanced
Valves (phonostage)	12 x 12AX7, 2 x 6922, 2 x 6SN7
Valves (power supply)	6 x 12 AX7, 2 x EL34
Power consumption	350 W

Dimensions (W x D x H)	445 mm x 470 mm x 140 mm
Shipping weight	16.8 kg (phono stage) 20.5 kg (phono stage with volume control) 24.9 kg (power supply)
Warranty	3 years

UK selling price (inc. VAT @ 20%)

lo Eclipse (1 power supply)	£14,000.00
lo Eclipse (2 power supplies)	£18,500.00
lo Eclipse with volume control (1 power supply)	£16,700.00
lo Eclipse with volume control (2 power supplies)	£21,200.00

AVAILABLE NOW

Aesthetix president and designer Jim White will give the first UK public demonstration of the Aesthetix lo Eclipse at Cool Gales' Analogue Fest 2011, which is being held at the Bath & County Club, Queens Parade, Bath BA1 2NJ on Saturday 4th June 2011.

Consumer contact

www.aesthetix.net

UK dealers: Cool Gales, Bath
T: 0800 043 6710
E: ask@coolgales.com
W: www.coolgales.com

Hi-Fi Sound, Stockton-on-Tees
T: 0845 6019390
E: info@hifisound.co.uk
W: www.hifisound.co.uk

Press contact

For more information, product samples or high-resolution print-ready images please contact David Denyer on 07976 646 404 or david@ddpr.co.uk.



Tel: 07976 646 404
Email: david@ddpr.co.uk
www.daviddenyerp.co.uk

Ends / ©DDPR / NO EMBARGO