



**WIN A SUPERB
ASTIN TREW AT8000
PHONO STAGE
WORTH £880
IN THIS MONTH'S
COMPETITION!**

Here's your chance to win the phono stage that so impressed David Price in the June 2010 issue of *Hi-Fi World!* Here's what he said about it...

"A solid-state, op-amp based design, "it has been voiced with components that offer a very musical and open sound", says company boss Michael Osborne. Its heavy gauge copper PCB tracks are gold plated, configured to permit dual mono topography, and sport "very linear precision resistors, plus polystyrene and polypropylene audio grade capacitors in all critical positions". Indeed, it's this profusion of high quality passive componentry that earns the AT8000 its considerable retail price, the company says. The entirety of the RIAA and amplification circuitry is held within a solid Faraday cage, for "substantial"

RFI/EMF protection. The box itself is styled and priced to match the new AT1000plus preamplifier and the AT2000plus integrated amplifier, but is obviously a lot smaller at 305x160x115mm. It's a longish, well finished aluminium box, weighing in at 1.9kg. This includes the "overrated" toroidal transformer and other high quality power supply components inside, so there's no need for an additional box; something many will find a relief. Underneath there are three dip switches for left and right channel impedance settings, and gain.

Tubeway Army's 'Are Friends Electric' showed the AT8000 to be an expansive, slightly tonally warm performer, much in the mould of the AT3500 CD player we rate so highly. It's a very tidy, architectural sounding device, with all the instruments in the mix carefully and confidently located across the soundstage. Bass

was strong, providing impressive body to the track, and pushed the song along with distinction. George Benson's 'Lady Love Me' showed a more polished aspect to the AT8000; this new phono stage bristled with detail, throwing out a very wide recorded acoustic into the room, with a good degree of depth too. The song sparkled with harmonics from the chiming keyboards, the Astin Trew catching their texture with aplomb, and also giving a beautifully creamy rendition of Benson's own dusky, creamy vocal strains. Again, the phono stage proved a gas to listen to, the song pushing along like a racing driver with a point to prove. From a company with no 'previous' in this field, it's an unexpectedly accomplished performer, with a combination of real musicality allied to oodles of detail and insight. An essential audition."

For a chance to win this great new phono stage, just answer the following four easy questions. Send your entries on a postcard only by 30th June 2010 to:

**July 2010 Competition,
Hi-Fi World magazine,
Unit G4, Argo House,
The Park Business Centre,
Kilburn Park Road,
London NW6 5LF.**

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- ONLY ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD
- MULTIPLE ENTRIES WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED
- PURCHASE OF THE MAGAZINE IS NOT A PRE-CONDITION OF ENTRY
- NO CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE ENTERED INTO
- THE EDITOR'S DECISION IS FINAL
- NO EMPLOYEES OF AUDIO PUBLISHING LIMITED, OR OF ANY COMPANIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRIZES, MAY ENTER

QUESTIONS

[1] WHO IS ASTIN TREW'S BOSS?

- [a] Michael Osborne
- [b] George Michael
- [c] Ozzy Osborne
- [d] Boy George

[2] WHAT ARE THE PCB TRACKS COATED IN?

- [a] gold
- [b] silver
- [c] copper
- [d] ceramic

[3] WHAT HOLDS THE AMPLIFICATION CIRCUITRY?

- [a] a Faraday cage
- [b] a Joule tin
- [c] a Newton structure
- [d] an Ohm house

[4] HOW IS THE TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER DESCRIBED?

- [a] "overrated"
- [b] "over hyped"
- [c] "over inflated"
- [d] "over cooked"

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**APRIL 2010 WINNER: NAIM NAT05 XS TUNER
Ms. Vivian Double of Poole, Dorset**