

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE KIT

# Bryston duo tells it just like it is

PRE AMPLIFIER/  
POWER AMPLIFIER  
BRYSTON  
BP26/4BSST2  
★★★★★  
£ 3670/4000

There's little glamorous about this pre/power amplifier combination from Bryston, but it's as honest and hard-working as the day is long. This is utterly truthful hi-fi

**FOR**

Workman-like – in a good way; transparent and unobtrusive sound; massively dynamic and powerful; built to last decades

**AGAINST**

Look elsewhere for glamour

**VERDICT**

Want a frill-free and transparent sounding pre/power combo? This Bryston pair is it

**CANADIAN ELECTRONICS SPECIALIST** Bryston doesn't do luxury or glamour. Instead, as with this pre/power amplifier pairing, you get a workhorse of a product. There's nothing particularly flashy, either, about the way this pair makes music. Tone is neutral and it refuses to embellish things to make them sound more attractive.

If the source, system or recording is bright or aggressive the Bryston won't try to make things more palatable. They're uncommonly honest, and that means they won't always sound pleasant.

Yet feed them a clean, beautifully recorded disc such as Eric Bibb and Needed Time's *Good Stuff* and you can't help but be spellbound. The transparency is first class, allowing voices and instruments to come through with natural tone and plenty of subtlety. Stereo imaging is pinpoint and precise, giving a well-formed and convincing sound stage.

Switch music to something cruder and ruder in the form of Eminem's *Relapse*, and the Brystons thunder with the best of them. Having a 300W

per channel power rating is no good if it doesn't deliver high volume levels without distress. The 4BST2 power amplifier obliges effortlessly.

The BP26 preamp is unchanged from when we last tested it, but the power amplifier is revised. It now sounds cleaner, crisper, more detailed; compare old with new and the advances are instantly clear. It delivers a crisp, punchy sound that charges along with enthusiasm. Few rivals sound so even handed,

so able to play a wide range of music without favour.

The preamp has a decent feature list. There's a nice chunky remote control, fully balanced connections and the option of adding one of two phono modules – moving magnet or switchable MM/MC. And you can specify a DAC module. These options will raise the

price by £525, £1200 and £1275 respectively.

This Bryston combo should keep working for years. It's not fussy about music and is utterly truthful about the kit it's connected to. These qualities have earned it a place in our reference system; we can't give a higher endorsement. ★

“Few rivals sound so even handed, so able to play a wide range of music without favour”



A 20-year warranty suggests high quality; it certainly all feels able to withstand many years of use



**BRYSTON BP 26 SPECIFICATIONS**  
**TYPE** Preamplifier  
**INPUTS** Five line level  
**TAPE LOOPS** One  
**PHONO STAGE** Optional moving magnet or switchable moving magnet/moving coil modules  
**RCA OUT** Yes  
**BALANCED XLR OUT** Yes  
**REMOTE CONTROL** Yes  
**HEADPHONE OUTPUT** Yes  
**TONE CONTROLS** No  
**DIMENSIONS (HWD)** 6x43x28cm

**BRYSTON 4B SST2 SPECIFICATIONS**  
**RCA INPUTS** Yes  
**BALANCED XLR INPUTS** Yes  
**POWER OUTPUT** 300W per channel  
**BRIDGEABLE** YES  
**DIMENSIONS (HWD)** 13x43x40 cm  
**WEIGHT** 22 kg

