

# AWARDS 2009



Welcome to Hi-Fi World's annual Awards special, where you'll find our favourite products reviewed over the last twelve months. Here's our pick of the past year's best offerings in specialist separates hi-fi...



**HI-FI WORLD**  
AWARDS  
2009

<b>TURNTABLE:</b>	<b>EAT FORTE/IKEDA IT-407</b>
<b>TO NEARM:</b>	<b>SME 312S</b>
<b>CARTRIDGE:</b>	<b>ORTOFON CADENZA BRONZE</b>
<b>PHONO STAGE:</b>	<b>ANT AUDIO KORA 3T LTD</b>
<b>DIGITAL:</b>	<b>DCS PAGANINI</b>
<b>TUNER:</b>	<b>ARCAM FMJ T32</b>
<b>INTEGRATED:</b>	<b>SUGDEN MYSTRO</b>
<b>POWER AMPLIFIER:</b>	<b>ELECTROCOMPANIET NEMO</b>
<b>LOUDSPEAKERS:</b>	<b>USHER BE-10</b>
<b>SYSTEM:</b>	<b>NAIM UNITI</b>
<b>COMPUTER AUDIO:</b>	<b>MERIDIAN SOOLOOS 2.0</b>
<b>INTERCONNECT:</b>	<b>MIT CVT TERMINATOR 2</b>
<b>SPEAKER CABLE:</b>	<b>BLACK RHODIUM JIVE</b>
<b>ACCESSORY:</b>	<b>ORIGIN LIVE UPGRADE MAT</b>



## POWER AMPLIFIER

### ELECTROCOMPANIET NEMO

**D**ysfunctional high end systems can often be explained by one thing; the mismatch between loudspeaker and power amplifier. It's all very well buying the best reviewed example of both breeds, but it doesn't necessarily guarantee great results. Efficient high end loudspeakers can make nice noises with valve amplifiers, yet these same power providers simply won't pull the skin off the proverbial rice pudding when asked to drive harder, less efficient loads. That's why there's always a need for a really good amplifier that's utterly unphased by anything connected to it, yet doesn't cost the earth. The Electrocompaniet AW600 Nemo is

precisely this.

The princely sum of seems a lot, until you remember just what it does, and the rivals it is competing against. It's the epitome of a solid-state power house; at 41kg and a claimed 600W RMS per channel, a shrinking violet it is not. Indeed, its output is heavily protected by a current sensing circuit to prevent it becoming an arc welder if its outputs are short circuited. Running substantially in Class A mode, there's a lot of heat generated, and you'll notice it on your electricity bill too, but once warmed up all that effort and expense is worth it. The Nemo has a devastatingly fast and clean sound, along with an iron grip on

even the most truculent, obstinate loudspeakers. Designs that routinely spin up the cooling fans on other 'super amps' are a mere bagatelle for the AW600, as it shakes their bass drivers like a lion with a deer in its mouth.

You'll need to match this massive power amplifier carefully however; it's not exactly rose-tinted in its presentation. Any failings in the source side of things are ruthlessly exposed by its icy clear tonality and blistering transients. Still, as sound per pound goes, there's not much that can touch the big Electrocompaniet, at or near the price. That's why it's the obvious recipient of this year's best power amplifier gong.

**ELECTROCOMPANIET AW600 NEMO**  
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