Subject: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Hank on Wed, 18 Mar 2026 06:56:18 GMT
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What would you say is your preferred solid-state amp right now. I am talking about a brand that has served you for a while with minimal complaints.

I just added the Boss Katana 100 to my collection of solid-state amps, and it just fits what I've been seeking. Great performance with zero tube drama. I am always relaxed as there has been no mid set concern since I started using it.

Which one are you using or can say fits into what you've been seeking for a very long period?

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Cole on Wed, 29 Apr 2026 22:42:40 GMT
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The Katana 100 amp is not bad. Zero tube stress, like you mentioned.

However, I've been on the Henrksen and the Quilter brand for years now and currently use the Bud Ten model that I got for $1,000 as my main amp right now. Kinda costly, but it has served me with no issues experienced for over 10 years that I've been making use of it.

I've used solid-state amps from Roland JC, Fender Tonemaster, and Peavey in the past, but none has given me the confidence that I had with these two brands. They've been a reliable brand for years.

If you've not gotten any of their amps in your collection, then I suggest you try them out, too.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Hank on Sat, 02 May 2026 16:25:46 GMT
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Cole wrote on Wed, 29 April 2026 17:42The Katana 100 amp is not bad. Zero tube stress, like you mentioned.

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I totally get your point. I mean, if the Bud Ten that you've been using for a decade or so hasn't had any issues, then it is safe to say that you've gotten value for money spent.

I've been using the Katana 100 for a while, too, and the good part is that I've not had any issues with it. I bring it to my rehearsals, have used it for some small gigs, and haven't had many complaints with it.

I've got the DV Mark Little Jazz in my collection, gotten for $400 three years ago. I needed a little amp for doing coffee shop gigs, and that's the one that I've used for it a lot of times.

I've always admired the Henriksen brand, but Katana and DV Mark have been my two reliable brands for years, and I've enjoyed every bit of it.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Kurt on Thu, 21 May 2026 04:58:02 GMT
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I've got the Klipsch RF-7 floorstanders, and the one amp that I've used on it for a while now is the Yamaha A-S220.

I've made use of the Yamaha A-S2200 most times as it perfectly fits the speakers. The bass and the highs don't get harsh while in use, and for the times that I've used it, I've not had any major complaints on it.

As one who really likes tube amps, I also make use of the Rogue Audio Sphinx V3, and the experience of using it has been pretty awesome. It doesn't cost much to maintain. That is the main reason that I picked it

Have you used any of the amps? If yes, what has been your personal experience on them?

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Hank on Tue, 02 Jun 2026 04:58:54 GMT
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Kurt wrote on Wed, 20 May 2026 23:58I've got the Klipsch RF-7 floorstanders, and the one amp that I've used on it for a while now is the Yamaha A-S220.

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Have you used any of the amps? If yes, what has been your personal experience on them?
The main point of amps is finding the right one that fits your speakers. It can be disheartening figuring out that the one you purchased never synchronised with the speakers you intend using it on. So, if the Yamaha A-S2200 works pretty good on your Klipsch speakers, then I don't see any need making a change.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Rusty on Fri, 05 Jun 2026 16:15:41 GMT
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My very first foray into DIY and kit building was the Hafler DH 220 mosfet amplifier. This was around 1986, give or take from lack of memory. I have used it with various speakers and line preamps. The matching Hafler model 100 preamp I'd built was the only limiting part of using the amplifier.

Until I'd built a scratch build a line tube preamp. The Transcendent Sound Grounded Grid. I got curious from that by building their OTL monoblock amplifiers, the T-16. Sixteen Russian 6c19pi tubes running at once. A wonderful sound.

But summertimes in Missouri are hot n humid. And running the tube amps are counter to running AC. So, the Hafler takes over and I find that the extra watts are nice and the rest of the soundscape isn't dramatically inferior to the tube amps. I'd had some noise coming through the speakers, (Theater 4 Pi's), this last winter and this last spring I changed out the filter capacitors that were 40 years old and the rectifier and put a current limiting device before the power switch that is suppose to help with the issue of the amp having to replace the power switch. Which I have in the past.

This amp has served me all this time and has proven to me that there really is great value in building your own. Eighty percent of my stereo is just that.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Bercle on Wed, 24 Jun 2026 13:45:18 GMT
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Kurt wrote on Wed, 20 May 2026 23:58I've got the Klipsch RF-7 floorstanders, and the one amp that I've used on it for a while now is the Yamaha A-S220.

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Have you used any of the amps? If yes, what has been your personal experience on them?

I've paired the Yamaha A-S2200 with my KEF speakers more than I've used the Rogue Audio Sphinx V3.

The Sphinx V3 gets unnecessarily hot after about 2 hours of consistent usage, and most of the time, it ruins the fun that comes with blasting it with the KEF speaker.

It's still a decent amp, but it can even be much better if Rogue works on better cooling and more stable power delivery for my type of speaker.

I haven't dumped it yet, but I resort to it on rare occasions.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by gofar99 on Wed, 01 Jul 2026 01:40:09 GMT
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Hi After using many amps I much prefer tube ones. But for solid state The Marantz 2250 receiver that is just above my head at the moment providing sound in my shop is my choice.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Hank on Tue, 04 Aug 2026 00:46:25 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Tue, 30 June 2026 20:40Hi After using many amps I much prefer tube ones. But for solid state The Marantz 2250 receiver that is just above my head at the moment providing sound in my shop is my choice.

Marantz brands are quite good. My colleague, Cameron, at work prefer their amps than any other brands in the market. That being said, what made you focus more on using tubes instead of solid state amps? Care to share?

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 04 Aug 2026 17:29:06 GMT
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I have a strong affection for the Yamaha receivers of the early 1980s, especially the CR-840 and CR-1040. The models just before that - the CR-820 and CR-1020 - are also good, but I slightly prefer the CR-840 and CR-1040.

The CR-x20 series used discrete bipolar components, whereas the CR-x40 series used integrated circuits. I owned both, and while the x20 series is easier to maintain, I preferred the sound of the x40 series. Trouble is though, you can't get the integrated circuits anymore, so a broken x40 requires a donor to repair.

What I loved about those models is actual a trivia detail, but one that makes a huge difference in overall quality, in my opinion. The Yamaha engineers purposely designed the amps so that - as long as the input wasn't overdriven - a full clockwise rotation of the volume knob set gain just below clipping. Essentially, given an appropriate source, you couldn't make it clip.

As a qualitative matter, it's very important for a solid-state amplifier to not be driven into clipping. As long as that rule isn't violated, a well-designed solid-state amp is pretty good.

So when the Yamaha engineers took the time to factor that into their overall design, it made those amplifiers pretty awesome, in my opinion. Ironically, the implementation would have only required a simple voltage divider - a couple resistors - in each signal path. Just don't allow the volume potentiometer to overdrive the output stage. But that one simple detail made all the difference in the world to me.

Subject: Re: What's your preferred solid-state amp now?
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 09 Aug 2026 02:33:44 GMT
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I probably should have mentioned that I have a 1060 amp and a 2265 Receiver as well. All run perfectly. All are rather heavy as well. The 2265 weighs about 65 pounds. Also all are pre 1976. After that Sony took over the brand and the gear was not nearly as well made. More recently they have done a turn around and the gear is excellent again.
