

Buying home and car stereo equipment?

Critics pick the best of all

Receivers are the "do-all" electronics of many stereo systems—the November 1981 issue of AudioVideo International magazine points out, and both dealers and critics have noted and applauded models that ranged from a modest \$350 all the way up to the relatively prestigious sum of \$900. AudioVideo annually

evaluates the receivers on the market for its readers, awarding the various brands and models "Grand Prix" status as a general guide. Some of the magazine's recent findings are reprinted here. "YAMAHA's R-2000 receiver was cited for both its specs and features by dealers and the judging panel. The re-

ceiver packs a 150 watts per channel, at 9.0015 per cent distortion, "X" power amplifier into a package with a station locked synthesizer tuner, station presets, MC head amplifier and Yamaha's "Spatial expander". "Dealers listed its cost-performance ratio as a strong asset as well as the R-2000's engin-

earing and features. The critics referred to it as the 'audiophile's receiver'." Such acclaim gave YAMAHA top ranking among receiver manufacturers. The rest of the top ten, in order of choice, were Onkyo, Harman-Kardon, Sony, NAD, Denon, Kenwood, Technics, JVC and Sherwood.

Over the years, most audiophiles haven't been especially impressed with Japanese speakers, but if they'd bothered to listen to Yamaha's two flagship models—the NS 1000 and the NS 690—they'd know the error of their ways. The NS 1000 (the current top of the line) has earned high praise from *Audiolab* listening panels for some years, and its baby brother (the NS 690), turned in an exceptional performance in an *Audiolab* test in 1974. Since then, speaker design has seen significant advances, and the original NS 690 has gone through several model changes, the current version being dubbed the NS 690 III. We thought it might be interesting to see how the latest version of a speaker that impressed us eight years ago would fare against current Japanese, American, and Canadian competition. We were not disappointed.

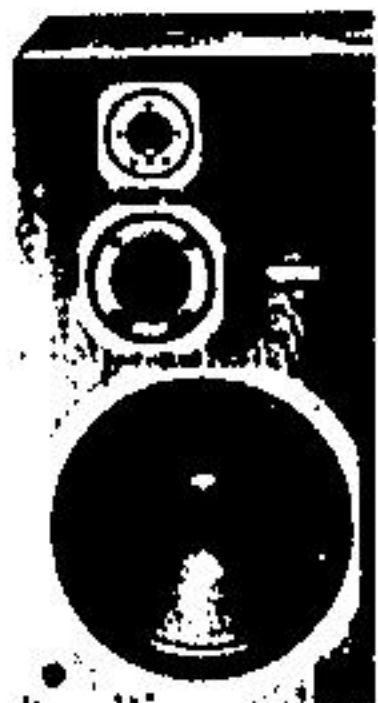
You cannot argue with smooth, linear, on-axis frequency response and excellent dispersion off-axis. The virtues that distinguished the original 690 are still abundantly evident in the anechoic curves of the latest model (Figure 10).

Dispersion off-axis is superb; the 60° response is remarkably close to the on-axis performance, and of course these dispersion characteristics were reflected in the open, spacious, and airy sound quality noted by all the listening panel members. "Smooth", "clear", "natural", and "wide-range"—these adjectives recur with satisfying regularity in the listening panel's assessments, and the Yamaha's highs—"ringing" cymbals and the like on big band and jazz—came in for special praise.

Cosmetically and technically, the NS 690 III closely resembles its predecessor. It's a 3-way acoustic suspension system with a 30 cm woofer, 7.5 cm dome midrange, and a 3 cm dome tweeter. Protective screens shield the midrange and tweeter domes from errant children and curious pets. There are two front-mounted midrange and tweeter level controls (all tests were done with these set at the "Normal" position), and spring connectors for speaker leads are on the rear.

Criticisms of the Yamaha's sound were few, and centred mainly on a trace of stridency audible in the midrange on some big band or vocal selections—probably a result of the slight hump at 2 kHz that's more evident in the off-axis response. These cavils aside, the Yamaha was judged to be a thoroughly neutral, articulate, and highly pleasant reproducer, with very good bass.

In terms of sensitivity, the 690 III was much like the Sony and the Mirage. One watt of input power produced an SPL of 88.0 dB at 1 metre on axis. To produce a 90 dB SPL at 2 metres required 7.0 watts of input power and to increase that to 95 dB SPL needed 22.1 watts. If you like your music loud, the Yamaha would be very comfortable with a 100 watt amplifier. Total harmonic distortion with the 690 III is very low over the whole spectrum (Figure 11), and when more power is applied (to achieve the 95 dB SPL), the increase in THD is negligible.



Yamaha
NS 690 III



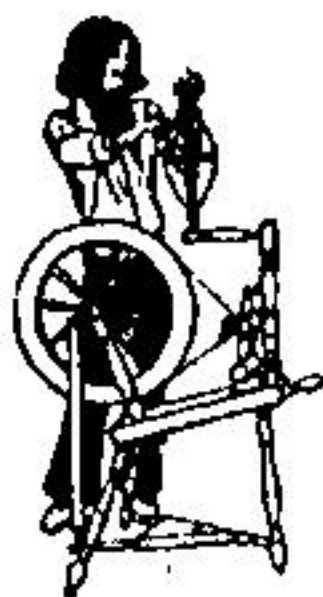
**Yamaha
Does it
Again**

Against the competition, the Yamaha drew a gratifying range of high marks, occasionally outscoring several excellent reference speakers on both scales of pleasantness and fidelity. The Yamaha's, in the words of one fussy panel member, "a genuine hi-fi speaker!" This is high praise for any speaker regardless of price. At a suggested list of \$500 each, the Yamaha NS 690 III is worth every penny. ■

Introducing...

A new concept
in fine antiques

Creative Environments



Come in and browse
through our fine
selection of antiques.

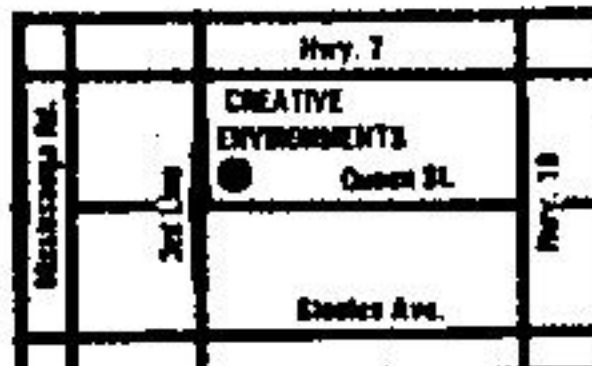
Choose country
curtains and quilts
etc. to complement
your antiques.

Achieve a Total Look with our
PERIOD WALLPAPER & DRAPERIES
Stop by today - or use our

PERSONALIZED
IN-HOME SERVICE

Queen St. W. at
3rd Line, Brampton

451-0132



Carrier HEAT PUMP

up to \$300
Rebate*



Offer Sept. 11 -
Oct. 31/82

SOLVES THE ENERGY PUZZLE

Carrier is number one, the leader in the development of the heat pump. The Carrier Heat Pump is designed to give top performance in Northern Climates. **SAVE UP TO 40% ON HEATING COSTS**

- Many features & benefits:
- High efficiency air conditioning
 - Winter heating for much less
 - Designed for northern climates
 - Night setback thermostat available for greater savings
 - Filtered air for your home
 - Manufacturers of heat pumps since 1932
 - Chronotemp® defrost
- * Carrier rebates of up to \$300 on an installed Total Comfort System (includes heat pump or central cooling, electronic air cleaner, humidifier and furnace) combined with the Federal Government's "Oil-Off" grant of up to \$800 could save you a total of up to \$1100. (Available in Ontario thru participating dealers. Contact us for further details.)

MELTON
APLIANCE
REFRIGERATION
COOLING &
HEATING

SEE US AT
785 MAIN ST. E.

CALL US AT
876-1138

Kash'n Karry Kitchens

Now Under New Management
Top Quality
Custom Designs at
Unbeatable Prices

Hwy. 7 just west of Hwy. 10
"The Norbrash Centre"
Brampton 456-2943

