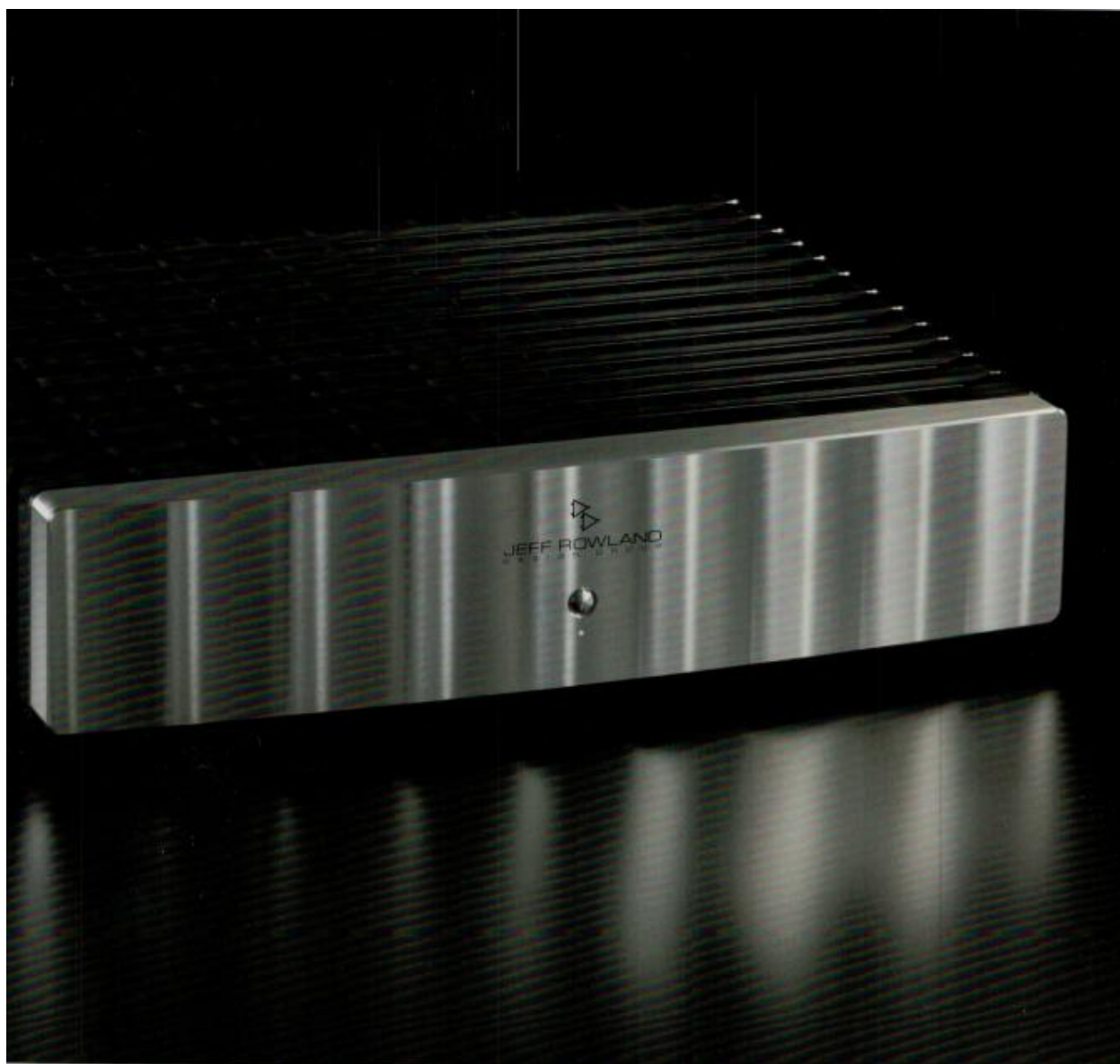




Stereo Sound – Japan

Review/Interview

Jeff Rowland Model 555 Power Amplifier

150W + 150W (8 Ω), 250W + 250W (4 Ω), 350W (Mono, 8 Ω)

Onodera: I think Rowland used to be strongly associated with monster amplifiers. Like the Miura Model k or the Rowland Model 9.

Jeff Rowland: Of course, we have been developing smaller products, but in the case of power amplifiers, there is certainly a relationship between size and drive power. For example, there is the approach of making a small and powerful amplifier using the Class D method, but once you listen to our company's larger models, there was a certain feeling of unease. Of course, this is also related to the efficiency of the speakers; however, that's not really the case with modern high-end speakers."

"I can't believe the size"

"Excellent sound quality"

"Attractive miniaturization success story"

Yamanouchi: But this year Stereo Sound, isn't it? This Model 555, which won the Grand Prix, is relatively small, but it's a wonderful stereo power amplifier that makes you forget it's small in a good way.

Wada: That's right. If you were to listen to it without knowing what it was, you wouldn't believe it was coming from an amplifier of this size; it sounds incredibly good.

Yamanouchi: If we're talking about it making it smaller, then what Mr. Onodera said earlier...

Jeff Rowland: While there are methods to make it a Class D amplifier, this one doesn't use that approach; the amplification circuit is a conventional Class AB. However, by employing a switching power supply, it can be considered a successful example of miniaturization. Switching power supplies are highly efficient and can supply a considerable amount of current, so even small ones are powerful and energetic. It can produce a great sound.

"High quality sound"

"I was able to immerse myself in it"

"Good size and finish"

Yamanouchi: This manufacturer has a long history with switching power supplies, so it seems that noise reduction measures are all so thoroughly implemented, resulting in a very refined amplifier.

Onodera: Regarding noise reduction countermeasures, Jeff Rowland has always had a strong commitment to quality. So, even with this amplifier, a transformer is put in the input section to cut out high frequency noise.

Jeff Rowland: This technology had been used in the company's previous amplifiers as well, but this time, noise reduction measures have been implemented to achieve a quieter sound while delivering even greater dynamics and power than before.

Mr. Yamaguchi: I think that's a great point. The texture is also wonderful. As you said, it's of very high quality.

Miura: I think this amp is more about the richness of its midrange than its power. The sound was impressive.

Onodera: With a sound that boasts a wide range.

Miura: That's right. That's why you can listen to it with peace of mind. Isn't that its charm? ■