



Fidelity Audio HPA-100

PRICE: £350 **CONTACT:** 01302 563124
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FIDELITY AUDIO IS ONE OF ANY NUMBER of companies offering aftermarket upgrades to respected kit from other manufacturers – uprated power supplies, fancier passive components, that kind of thing. It also offers a handful of its own complete products, including a DAC and two headphone amps. This is the simpler of the two: the HPA-200 has similar circuitry, but more generous power supply arrangements. It has a line input and a line output, the two connected directly together internally, a single headphone output jack and a volume control. The circuit comprises (for each channel) a high-performance op-amp, and a high-speed buffer between them, capable of driving any kind of headphone load with a bandwidth from DC to radio frequencies, it is claimed. The power supply is linear and well-regulated, and construction is just dandy.

We weren't surprised to find such straightforward engineering inside the case when we opened the unit after listening to it, for its performance has all the hallmarks of no-nonsense design. It has no discernible coloration and basically is as clean as a whistle. There's lots of detail and some lovely imaging, while noise is all but inaudible on any headphone and there's enough headroom on hand to blow your brains out. Maybe, just maybe, we found the slightest hint of treble congestion in the odd track. Trust me – long listening sessions with this unit will inspire not only respect, but genuine affection!

VERDICT
★★★★★

FUSS-FREE, compatible with any headphone, and sonically almost eerily pure and unsullied. Such honesty may not be for all tastes, but we loved it