



# March Audio P452

**M**arch Audio is based in Albany, Western Australia, where it appeared on the scene a little more than three years ago and quickly carved a niche as a supplier of power amplifiers that use the latest Class-D technology from Hypex and more recently from Purifi. Other products followed — a DAC, a headphone amplifier, and a stereo preamplifier and a pair of large standmount speakers which incorporate drivers also from Purifi.

The company is run by Alan March, and the P452 that wins here is the first March stereo amplifier to feature Purifi's Eigentakt module, Bruno Putzeys' latest and first post-Hypex Class-D advance, in collaboration with the Purifi team of director Claus Neesgaard and gaining particularly from Putzeys' collaboration with Lars Risbo, another pioneer of switching PCM-PWM audio amplifiers.

"Their 1ET400A modules have raised the bar both technically and subjectively over Bruno's previous Hypex Ncore designs," says Alan March. "They have a sweet extended high-frequency range with great power and definition and tightness in the bass. They are just neutral — but don't think for one minute that 'neutral' means clinical or unengaging. They just let the music through. Tremendous power output with low power consumption and cool running temperatures in a very compact format. What more do you need?"

March's design around the Eigentakt modules includes input RF filters, Mogami signal cable and Canare speaker cable, Neutrik XLR inputs (compatible with single-ended RCA), and the ETI Research binding posts on the back of the anodised aluminium enclosure. March warns that the ready availability of Class-D modules has led to many companies taking short-cuts with how they integrate the modules into their amplifier designs. That's certainly not the case here — and yet the other thing that recommends the P452 is price. This stereo power amplifier has a surprisingly low RRP of \$2375 as standard with the pictured ETI BP2-C binding posts, or \$2500 with upgraded ETI Kryo posts.

That's remarkable given its level of performance — the P452 product name indicates its two channels of 450W available (and 25 amps of current) into 2 ohms, or 227W into 8 ohms, and in both our listening sessions and our bench testing it proved capable of easily delivering extremely high power into all loudspeaker loads, while having extraordinarily low levels of noise and distortion, super-flat frequency response, and the highest damping factor that *Australian Hi-Fi's* Newport Test Labs has ever measured.

The result is effortless music, with richness, depth and extraordinary dynamics in reserve, and yet a background so super-quiet it's almost supernatural. Quite the achievement.

Info: [www.marchaudio.net.au](http://www.marchaudio.net.au)

## JUDGES' COMMENT

The very latest in high-performance Class-D technology from Bruno Putzeys is impressively served (and priced) by this Western Australian company.

