

The Equipment: Beomaster 3000-2, a stereo FM receiver in wood case. Dimensions: 22½ by 3½ by 9⅞ inches. Price: \$350. Manufacturer: Bang & Olufsen, Denmark; U.S. distributor: Bang & Olufsen of America, Inc., 2271 Devon Ave., Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007.

Comment: The 3000-2 is unquestionably the most strikingly styled receiver we have reviewed in recent years. And, in case you're familiar with the original European version (the 3000), it has been revamped some-

A Striking Receiver From B & O

what with the U.S. market in mind. Most obvious in this respect probably is the increased power output. But it remains extremely European in feeling—and in many details.

Volume, bass, treble, balance, and FM tuning controls are a series of "slide-rule" elements across the top of the front panel. The remaining front-panel controls are in a low row across the bottom. They are, in order: the headphone jack, which is live at all times; on/off switches for speakers 1, speakers 2, low filter, and high filter; a green stereo pilot light; on/off switches for mono from the left input, mono from the right input, and tape monitor; a red AC-power pilot light; the power-off switch; selector switches for phono 1 (magnetic cartridge), phono 2 (preamplified—it also can be used as an aux input), FM tuning dial, and six pretuned FM channels; FM AFC (automatic frequency control) on/off switch; a pair of FM tuning lights plus a signal-strength meter; and the six FM pretuning dials, which are protected from inadvertent misadjustment by a clear plastic snap-off panel. The reason the main power switch has no on position in the usual sense is because it interlocks with the source selector switches; press any source and the unit comes on automatically, the power-off switch being released to its up position in the process.

The back panel has RCA phono-jack pairs for the phono and tape inputs and tape-recording output, plus DIN jacks for each of these purposes. The speaker connections use DIN two-pin speaker/headphone plugs, two pairs of which are supplied with the unit. Additional plugs or DIN cables can be bought from B&O or from local outlets carrying the Switchcraft/Preh line. There are three pairs of the corresponding jacks on the 3000-2: one for each set of speakers plus an input pair for use with equipment (a tape recorder, for example) that has its own power amp. When a signal is fed into this last pair it will go to any speaker pair whose front-panel switch is in the off position. This means that you can listen via the recorder's amplifiers when the 3000-2 is turned off completely; or you can use the 3000-2 to feed one speaker pair and the recorder to feed the other pair with a different program. The antenna connections also are unusual: a European jack for 250-300-ohm twin-lead, a concentric jack for 75-ohm coax, and a bracket to hold telescoping "rabbit ears." A matching 300-ohm connector is supplied with the 3000-2; a matching 75-ohm coax connector can be bought from B&O; so can the rabbit ears (\$8.60).

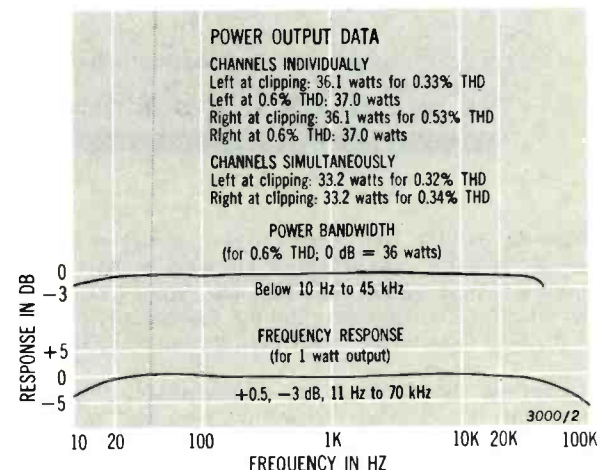
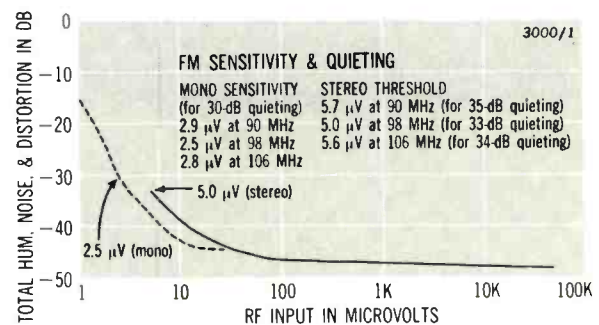
One special feature of the back panel, a channel-balance test mode, is used in conjunction with a series of screwdriver input level controls accessible through the bottom of the case. Adjustments are included for phono 1, phono 2, and tape playback, and permit levels to be matched to those produced by the FM section of the receiver. Mono program material is used to set the balance. First the front-panel balance control is adjusted for aural balance in the room, using an FM station as a source. Then the receiver is switched to the other inputs in turn, and a "test" switch on the back panel turned on to put one channel out of phase and cause cancellation between the two signals. The right channel is then adjusted for minimum output—that is, most perfect cancellation—and therefore optimum balance.

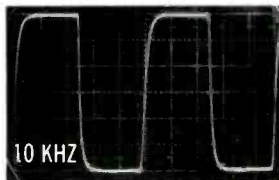
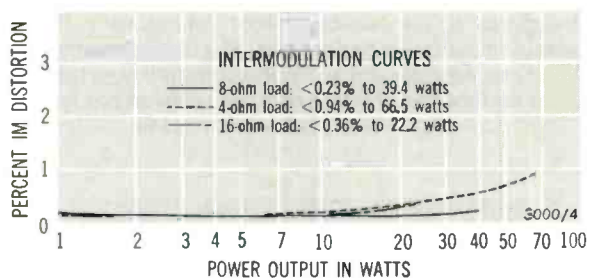
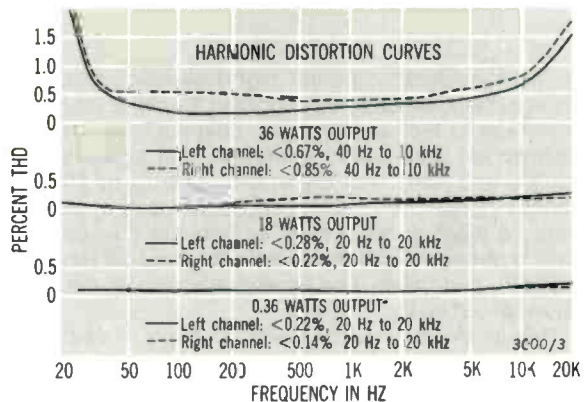
The tuner section's performance, as measured at CBS Labs, is generally about par, though two items stand out as particularly good. First is the linearity of FM

response: almost dead flat in both mono and, except for a slight rise at the top end, stereo. The second is the surprising similarity of mono and stereo quieting curves. Above the threshold point the stereo curve is as good as the mono curves in many of the less expensive receivers we have tested recently. The amplifier section still is no powerhouse, though it's certainly more than adequate for any pair of conventional speakers in normal rooms and should handle two pairs of speakers well if they are not excessively inefficient. At rated output (36 watts) harmonic distortion creeps above the rating point (0.6%) at the frequency extremes—particularly in the very deep bass. At lower output (or even with normal program material, which does not go below 40 or 50 Hz) this is a negligible consideration, however; at half power (18 watts) and 1% of rated output (0.36 watts) the distortion is well below the 0.6% rating at all frequencies.

The Beomaster 3000-2 obviously has an extremely individual "personality"—and one that we found refreshing to work with. Its award-winning cosmetics and its functionalism both make it unusually attractive. The functionalism is, in fact, surprising; at first glance you might expect that the extremely long row of switches would lead to fumbling. But their grouping is so well thought out that we mastered the controls almost immediately. Only the small dials for the preset FM stations proved awkward; the AFC can be used to correct minor mistunings, however. Over-all, a handsome and unique product.

CIRCLE 144 ON READER-SERVICE CARD





Square-wave response

Beomaster 3000-2 Additional Data

Tuner Section

Capture ratio	1.8 dB		
Alternate-channel selectivity	62 dB		
S/N ratio	70 dB		
THD	Mono	L ch	R ch
80 Hz	0.37%	0.48%	0.60%
1 kHz	0.46%	0.46%	0.46%
10 kHz	1.7%	17%	17%
IM distortion	1.0%		
19 dB pilot	-48 dB		
38-kHz subcarrier	-39.5 dB		
Frequency response	mono		
	±0.5 dB, 20 Hz to 15 kHz		
	L ch	+1.5, -0.25 dB, 20 Hz to 15 kHz	
	R ch	+1.5, -0.25 dB, 20 Hz to 15 kHz	
Channel separation	>35 dB, 70 Hz to 2.7 kHz		
	>25 dB, 20 Hz to 6.8 kHz		

Amplifier Section

Damping factor	24	
Input characteristics (for 36 watts output)		
	Sensitivity	S/N ratio
phono 1	0.29 mV	60 dB
phono 2	230 mV	87 dB
tape monitor	225 mV	87 dB
RIAA equalization accuracy	+1.5, -1 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz	