

EQUIPMENT REPORTS

THE CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO NEW AND IMPORTANT HIGH FIDELITY EQUIPMENT



LAFAYETTE LR-1500T STEREO RECEIVER

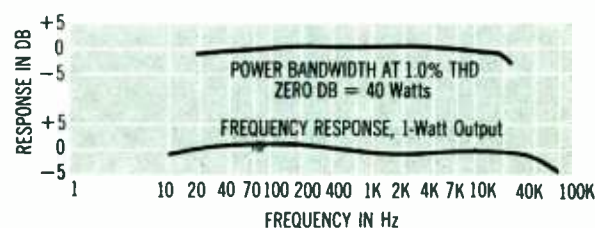
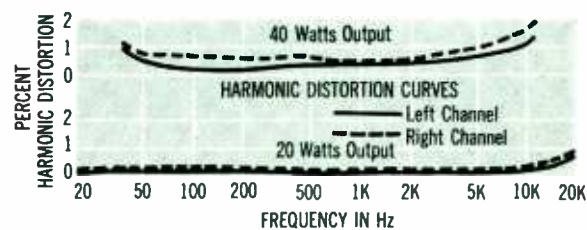
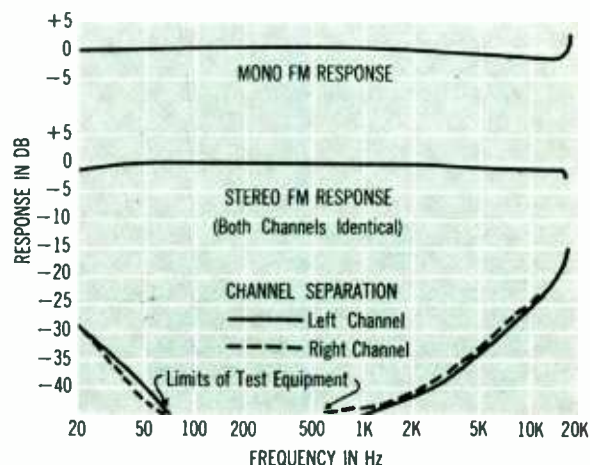
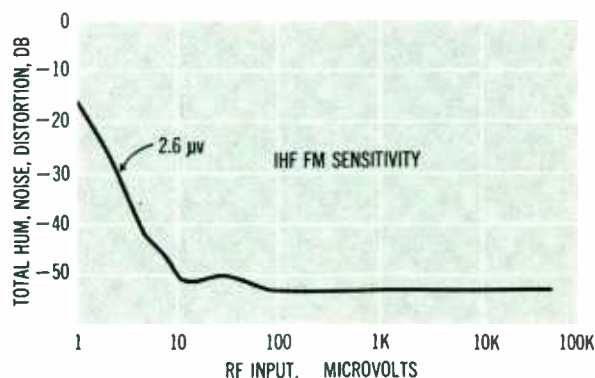
THE EQUIPMENT: Lafayette LR-1500T, a stereo FM/AM receiver. Dimensions: 16¾ by 14¼ inches. Price (includes simulated wood-grain metal case): \$299.95. Manufacturer: Lafayette Radio Electronics Corp., 111 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, N. Y. 11791.

COMMENT: High performance and an abundance of features distinguish Lafayette's best stereo receiver to date, the model LR-1500T. The set combines a sensitive tuner (for mono and stereo FM, and AM) with a medium-high-powered control amplifier in a well-designed, attractive, and very competitively priced format. It is, in short, an excellent buy on today's market.

Most of the top half of the front panel is taken by the FM and AM tuning dials, with a logging scale running between the two. At the left are a stereo FM indicator and a signal strength meter. At the right of the dial the words "phono," "tape," and "aux" light up according to what you choose on the program selector knob. Beyond the dial itself there's the tuning knob, a variable muting control, and a speaker mode selector which, in conjunction with connections at the rear, lets you run two separate pairs of stereo speakers and choose either, both, or none. This switch also turns the power off and on for the set.

The lower half of the front panel contains additional controls. The selector knob is marked for auxiliary, tape head, phono, FM, MPX filter, and AM. The FM position is "automatic"—that is, it lets the set (and the stereo indicator) respond to whatever is coming in, mono or stereo. There is no "stereo FM defeat" as such—but you can switch the entire system to mono by using the next knob, the mode control. This control also has positions for left and right balance, stereo, reverse channels, and left and right inputs. The tape monitor control has four positions: off, stereo, left, and right. Dual-concentric clutched bass and treble controls let you regulate bass and treble on each channel separately or simultaneously. The two-section volume control serves also as a channel balance control, in conjunction with the balance-left-and-right positions of the selector knob. Three rocker switches handle loudness contour and low- and high-frequency filters. A stereo headphone jack (live regardless of the positions of the speaker selector) and a tape recorder feed jack complete the front panel.

The rear of the set contains the inputs corresponding to the selector knob positions plus additional tape feed jacks, the speaker terminals, antenna ter-



REPORT POLICY

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Lab Test Data

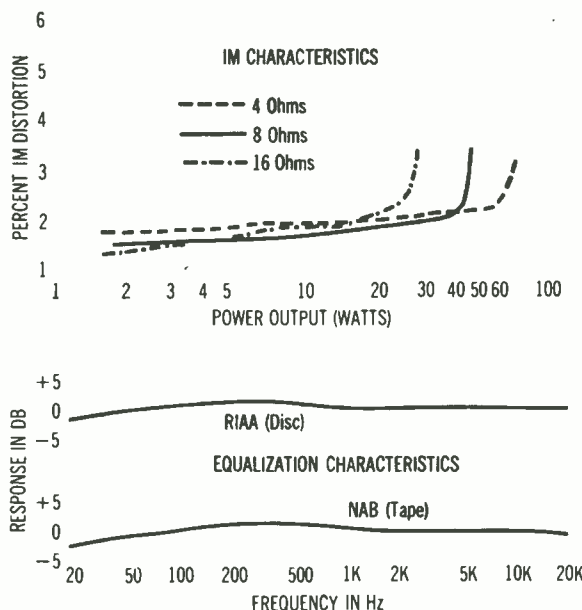
Performance characteristic	Measurement
Tuner Section	
IHF sensitivity	2.4 μ V at 90 MHz; 2.6 μ V at 98 MHz; 3.9 μ V at 106 MHz
Frequency response, mono	± 1.5 dB, 20 Hz to 17 kHz
THD, mono	0.28% at 400 Hz; 0.30% at 40 Hz; 0.33% at 1 kHz
IM distortion	0.5%
Capture ratio	1.5 dB
S/N ratio	71 dB
Frequency response, stereo, l ch	+0, -2 dB, 20 Hz to 16 kHz
r ch	+0, -1.5 dB, 20 Hz to 16 kHz
THD, stereo, l ch	0.46% at 400 Hz; 0.58% at 40 Hz; 0.47% at 1 kHz
r ch	0.29% at 400 Hz; 0.35% at 40 Hz; 0.31% at 1 kHz
Channel separation, either channel	better than 45 dB at mid-frequencies; better than 24 dB, 20 Hz to 10 kHz
19-kHz pilot suppression	-56 dB
38-kHz subcarrier suppression	-59.5 dB

Amplifier Section

Power output (at 1 kHz into 8-ohm load)		
l ch at clipping	43.7 watts at 0.88% THD	
l ch for 1.0% THD	44.2 watts	
r ch at clipping	41.4 watts at 0.64% THD	
r ch for 1.0% THD	43.7 watts	
both chs simultaneously		
l ch at clipping	36.6 watts at 0.54% THD	
r ch at clipping	36.6 watts at 0.56% THD	
Power bandwidth for constant 1.0% THD	below 20 Hz to 27 kHz	
Harmonic distortion	l ch: under 1.1%, 40 Hz to 20 kHz	
40 watts output	r ch: under 1.7%, 40 Hz to 20 kHz	
20 watts output	l ch: under 0.8%, 20 Hz to 20 kHz	
	r ch: under 1.0%, 20 Hz to 20 kHz	
IM distortion, 4-ohm load	under 1.2% to 40 watts	
8-ohm load	under 1.2% to 39 watts	
16-ohm load	under 1.2% to 19 watts	
Frequency response, 1-watt level	± 1.25 dB, 10 Hz to 35 kHz	
RIAA equalization	+1, -2 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz	
NAB equalization	+1, -3 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz	
Damping factor	14	
Input characteristics, 40-watt output	Sensitivity	S/N ratio
phono, low	15 mV	57 dB
phono, medium	6.3 mV	57 dB
phono, high	2.5 mV	57 dB
tape head	1.5 mV	56 dB
aux	365.0 mV	78 dB
tape in (tape amp)	700.0 mV	80 dB



Square-wave response to 50 Hz, left, and to 10 kHz.



minals, and a center-channel (mono A plus B) output for driving an external amplifier. Two AC outlets—one one switched—are provided. The power line is fused, and the output and driver stages are protected by an automatic overload circuit. The tuner uses field-effect transistors in its front end, and four integrated circuits in its IF section. The silicon power output transistors are mounted on large heat sinks facing the rear of the chassis.

In tests at CBS Labs, the LR-1500T had above-average performance for its cost, as both a tuner and an amplifier. FM sensitivity was high; distortion low; response linear. The set's channel separation on stereo would be remarkable at any price, exceeding as it did the limits of our test equipment over a considerable portion of the audio band. In our cable-FM test, the LR-1500T logged a very high total of fifty-five stations, of which thirty-seven were judged good enough for long-term listening or off-the-air-tapng. The amplifier furnished ample, clean power, although when pushed to its maximum it balked somewhat at the very low end—a characteristic of every popularly priced combination set we've tested. Still, at normal listening levels, driving moderately efficient speakers, it will make an excellent showing. Equalization for both magnetic pickups and tape heads was accurate; hum and noise were well below any audible level. The high (scratch) and low (rumble) filters were not the sharpest noise cut-off performers we've seen, but they will reduce some noise if you have to use them. Transient response is excellent; the set will not degrade whatever "air" and "realism" is in the program material fed into it.

The cabinet supplied with the LR-1500T enables the set to be installed as is, on a shelf or table-top. Alternatively, you can remove the chassis from this wrap-around and install it with the front panel flush-mounted in a panel cut-out.

CIRCLE 141 ON READER-SERVICE CARD