The Scott 431 AM-FM stereo tuner is the performance-for-the-price leader among separate component tuners. It's an all new model, but it has a storied and reliable history in the Scott 312 FM-only tuner which was the industry leader from 1964 to 1970.

For the 431, Scott engineers used a silver plated tuner with a cascode FET front end. The result is IF-F sensitivity of 1.7 µV which is great in itself but not particularly important, since hardly anybody listens to FM under IF conditions. What is important is the steepness of the sensitivity curve, which drops sharply, reaching a signal-to-noise ratio of better than 60 dB at a signal level of around 10 µV. What this buys you is essentially noise-free reception, even in suburban or fringe areas, of practically any station with enough signal strength to budge the panel meter.

Not only does the Scott circuitry achieve full limiting on weak signals (like 4 to 5 µV), but it also has plenty of headroom to prevent overload distortion when you tune to an unusually strong station nearby. The 431 tuner uses two six-pole LC filters in its integrated circuit IF strip. These give better skirt selectivity than highly touted crystal types, and this means you won't be troubled by interference from alternate channels.

The 431 is the only tuner we know of that gives you a multipath distortion meter to check your antenna position for best reception, and a 75 µA antenna socket for professional or community antenna applications. Scott engineers have included a high quality AM tuner section for listeners who like to tune in an AM program occasionally. Other features include a front panel tape recorder output jack, function lights, and even a panel light dimmer.

The Scott 431 AM-FM stereo tuner sells for $219.90 which is considerably less than the price of the FM-only tuner it replaces. We believe you'll find it an outstanding value, particularly after you've seen and heard all the others.

The Scott 490 integrated stereo control amplifier is the 431's non-identical twin. It puts out 70 watts of continuous (RMS) power with both channels driven into 8 Ω over the frequency range 15 Hz to 20 kHz with less than 0.5% distortion. But where it really overpowers its competition is with single 4 Ω speakers or parallel combinations of 8 Ω speakers where it delivers a conservative 120 watts per channel with both channels driven. Speaker connections for up to three stereo pairs are provided and any two pairs may be used simultaneously without overloading the power supply or degrading performance. Active electronic protection circuitry plus fuses and circuit breaker protect both amplifier and speakers against faults.

Individual left and right channel VU meters with range switching allow power output monitoring on both loud and quiet program material. Tape recorder, microphone, and headphone jacks are placed on the front panel for convenient access. A second tape recorder may be connected at the rear for multiple recording or program production.

The 490 integrated stereo control amplifier outpoints its competition and at $299.90 is another performance-for-the-price leader.

Both the 431 tuner and 490 amplifier feature Scott's quick-change Modutron circuit boards, full two-year parts and labor warranty, and Scott's traditional 100% American design and manufacture. Before you buy separate components, see and hear the 431 and 490 "unmatched pair" at your Scott dealer's.