



Excellent Value in Sony Receiver

The Equipment: Sony STR-6045, a stereo FM/AM receiver. Dimensions: 15¼ by 5¼ by 11¼ inches. Price: \$237.50. Manufacturer: Sony Corporation, Japan; U.S. distributor: Sony Corp. of America, 47-47 Van Dam St., Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.

Comment: The Sony STR-6045 is impressive—one of the best receivers we have seen in the under-\$250 bracket. The finish of the front panel and knobs is appealingly suggestive of careful manufacture, while measured performance confirms that the appeal is more than skin deep.

A double, clutched volume/balance knob and the tuning knob flank the AM/FM dial with its single (signal-strength) tuning meter and stereo indicator. Below these elements are the power switch, headphone jack (live at all times), speaker switch, loudness and high-filter switches, bass and treble controls, mode and monitor switches, and the rather complex selector group: a knob for automatic-stereo FM, mono FM, and AM, and a three-position switch to select either the tuner (via the knob control), phono, or aux.

On the back panel are thumbscrew terminals for 300-ohm FM antenna lead, long-wire AM antenna, and ground. Screwdriver terminals are used for the output

to two pairs of speakers. The front-panel switching permits the two pairs to be used simultaneously, individually, or not at all—as in headphone listening. There are phono inputs for magnetic phono, aux, and tape monitor, and similar connections for the output to a tape recorder. There also is an unswitched AC convenience outlet.

So far the 6045 is fairly Spartan. Almost all of its features are virtual necessities in most stereo systems, but all the important controls are there (unless you consider a center-of-channel FM tuning meter to be particularly important).

The amplifier section, at an honest 25 watts per channel, has more muscle than you would expect in a budget receiver these days and certainly is adequate for almost any pair of moderate-priced speakers in most rooms. When this power rating is compared to distortion figures, however, we are reminded of more expensive equipment. Both IM and THD run under 0.5%—often well under 0.5%—over most of the unit's operating range. Power bandwidth is excellent; frequency response is not ruler-flat, but its variations across the audible range can hardly be considered excessive. S/N ratios—in both amplifier and tuner sections—are more than adequate. Full-range THD figures are <0.41% (<0.35%

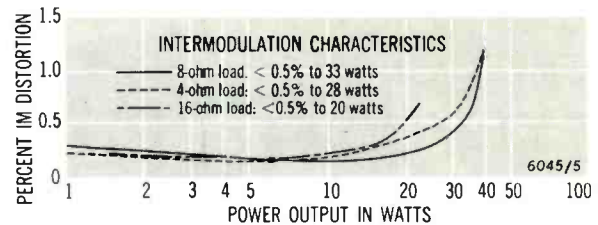
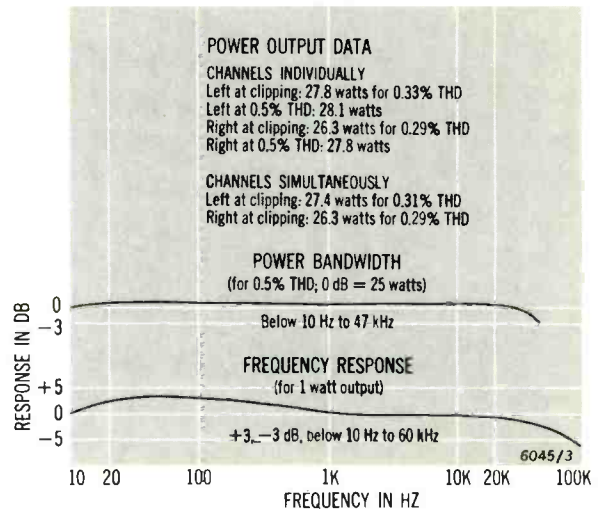
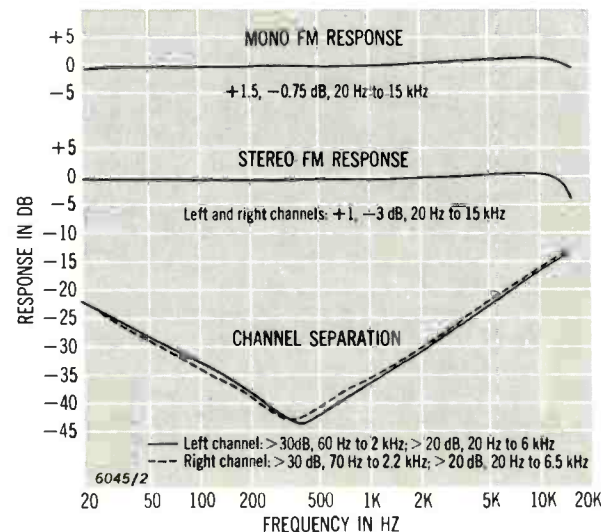
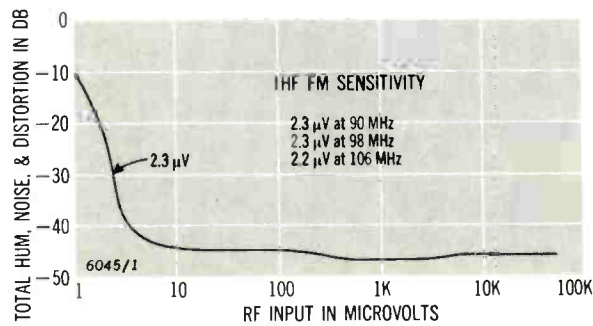
in the right channel) at 25 watts, <0.19% (<0.16% in the right channel) at half power.

It is in the tuner section, particularly, that the Sony behaves like a more expensive unit. The quieting curve descends unusually steeply, dropping below the 44-dB point (maximum quieting on many budget units) before input has reached 10 microvolts. Beyond 10.5 microvolts the quieting is at least 45 dB and reaches maximum at 47 dB in a broad input range centered around 1,000 microvolts. Sensitivity is excellent, for the price, at 2.3 microvolts; capture ratio, at less than 2 dB, is excellent for any price class.

The FM response curves are particularly unusual. Not only are they very flat, but the stereo response in the two channels is so close that the two curves cannot be distinguished. Even the separation curves are almost identical. This matching of the two channels, while not particularly important in itself, again suggests a care in manufacture that we seldom encounter even in relatively expensive equipment.

Our FM cable tests demonstrate the importance of the 6045's steep quieting curve. We received about forty stations, which is close to par; but 31 of them were judged appropriate for long-term listening or recording—an unusually narrow spread. All things considered, the STR-6045 must be rated as a top receiver in the moderate-cost field, and one that should be considered carefully even by purchasers who can afford to spend more.

CIRCLE 143 ON READER-SERVICE CARD



Sony STR-6045 Receiver Additional Data

Tuner Section			
Capture ratio	1.7 dB		
Alternate-channel selectivity	78.0 dB		
S/N ratio	68.5 dB		
IM distortion	0.6%		
THD	Mono	L ch	R ch
80 Hz	0.16%	0.45%	0.33%
1 kHz	0.55%	0.54%	0.52%
10 kHz	0.30%	4.3%	5.0%
19-kHz pilot	-58 dB		
38-kHz subcarrier	-66 dB		
Amplifier Section			
Damping factor	30		
Input characteristics (for 25 watts output)			
	Sensitivity	S/N ratio	
phono	3.5 mV	65.0 dB	
tape	220 mV	77.0 dB	
aux	425 mV	61.5 dB	

REPORTS IN PROGRESS

Sherwood SEL-300 tuner
Harman-Kardon CAD-5 cassette deck
Marantz 2270 receiver