

## VERSATILE CONTROL AMPLIFIER FROM SONY

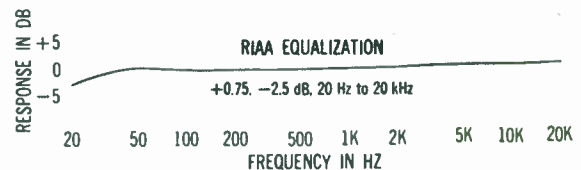
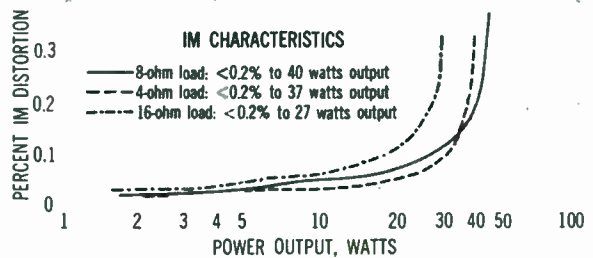
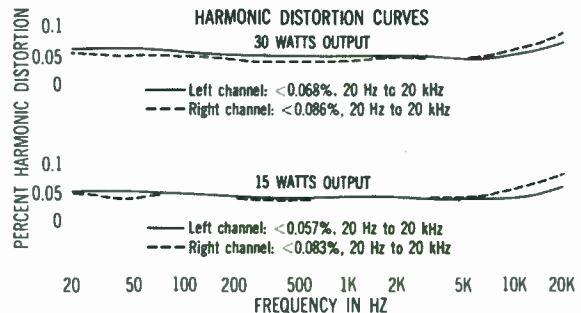
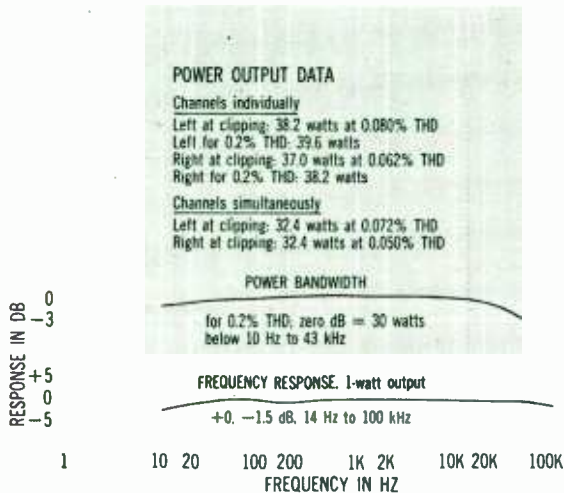


**THE EQUIPMENT:** Sony TA-1144, a stereo integrated amplifier. Dimensions: 16 9/16 by 5 5/16 by 11 1/4 inches. Price: \$219.50. Manufacturer: Sony Corporation of America, 47-47 Van Dam St., Long Island City, N.Y. 11101.

**COMMENT:** Dimensionally and visually, the Sony TA-1144 amplifier is an obvious style-mate for the Sony basic tuner ST-5100 [see HF test report, September 1970], although it can of course serve as the control and power center for any stereo system. In view of its low distortion, excellent response, and numerous features, make that a "high-quality, extremely versatile stereo system."

Although priced and designed for the home-music-system market, the TA-1144 boasts some studiolikey options that should appeal to the audiophile or sound hobbyist. A run-through of its controls and features will explain why. The power off/on switch is a separate toggle switch under a green pilot lamp. Next to it is a mode knob with positions for normal stereo, reverse stereo, left-plus-right mono, left only, and right only. The darker center portion of the panel contains separate controls for bass and treble on each

channel; these are slide switches that have separate steps calibrated in increments of 2 dB from zero to plus 10 and minus 10 for precise and repeatable settings. Centered below them is the large volume control. Directly below is a left-to-right slide for channel balance. The signal selector (called here a "function" control) is divided between a slide switch with three positions: top selects tuner, bottom selects phono 1, center selects whatever signal is chosen on an adjacent knob, itself marked for phono 2, aux 1, aux 2, and aux 3. The last-named input is a front-panel phone jack for quick and/or temporary connection of external sources; all other inputs are phono jacks on the rear. In addition, the front panel also contains a headphone jack, main and remote speaker selectors, a loudness off/on switch, low- and high-frequency filter switches, and a tape monitor switch. The headphone jack is live at all times regardless of the positions of the speaker selectors, which themselves permit you



### Sony TA-1144

### Additional Data

Damping factor	72	
Input	Sensitivity	S/N ratio
phono 1	0.88 mV	57 dB
phono 2	0.88 mV	57 dB
tuner	105 mV	91 dB
aux 1, 2, 3	105 mV	91 dB
tape	105 mV	91 dB



Square-wave response.

### REPORTS IN PROGRESS

Ampex Micro 52 Cassette Recorder  
 Klipsch La Scala Speaker System

to choose either, both, or neither of the pairs of stereo speakers that may be connected at the rear.

In addition to the signal inputs and speaker outputs, the rear panel contains the tape monitor inputs and a pair of jacks for feeding signals to a tape recorder. There's also a DIN record/playback jack for use with foreign-made recorders. The two sets of phono inputs have identical input characteristics, which means you can leave two magnetic pickups permanently plugged in; then by flipping the front-panel selector lever you can make immediate A/B comparisons between the two if you so desire. Other rear-panel features include three AC outlets, one unswitched, a system grounding post, and the amplifier's power cord.

This amplifier also has a "circuit-interrupt" feature worked out in terms of a pair of preamp outputs and power amp inputs plus a "normal/separate" switch, that permits the user to electronically divide the unit into a stereo preamp and a stereo power amp. Thus it provides the option of patching in special devices, such as reverb units, or electronic crossovers, or one of the new "spectrum contouring" or "loudspeaker equalizing" devices. If an electronic crossover is used, part of its output can be returned to the TA-1144's own power amp section while the rest of the signal is fed to external power amps. The TA-1144 has no "center" channel output as such, but an interesting substitute is possible with the circuit-interrupt feature. If the switch is left in "normal" position, you can tap a stereo signal from the power amp input jacks and feed this to an external amplifier while the TA-1144's own power amp still operates normally. Then, by connecting additional speakers to that external amplifier, you can set up a third remote listening spot, or use them for center fill or surround effects.

Under test at CBS Labs, the TA-1144 easily met its published performance specifications and shaped up as a first-rate medium-powered amplifier. Power bandwidth, for a very low 0.2 per cent distortion, extends from below 10 Hz to 43 kHz; frequency response remains within 1.5 dB from 14 Hz out to 100 kHz. Both harmonic and IM distortion are nearly non-measurable up to rated power output; equalization, tone, and filter controls all show desirable and accurate characteristics. Excellent S/N ratios are evident through all inputs. Careful workmanship and attention to detailing are found throughout. And considering the functional options and features offered, the price seems very right too.

CIRCLE 141 ON READER-SERVICE CARD



## HANDY CASSETTE SPLICING BLOCK

**THE EQUIPMENT:** Robins TS-215, tape splicing block. List price: \$10.50. Manufacturer: Robins Industries Corp., 15-58 127th Street, Flushing, N.Y. 11356.

**COMMENT:** To the growing roster of accessories for tape cassette owners, Robins has added a splicing block which resembles a scaled-down version of the older, larger type familiar to many open-reel tape recordists. The new block comes packaged with a razor blade, supply of splicing patches, and a cotton-tipped stick in a packet that itself is of the same dimensions as a cassette. Instructions for using the Robins device are printed on the inside of the packet's lift-up lid.

The block has a groove running down its length into which you place the spooled-out tape from a cassette. A little pressure from the cotton-tipped stick gets it into place, where it is held securely. You then use the razor to make either a 45-degree cut or a 90-degree cut, following either of the two cutting guides on the block. The former cut suffices for most editing and repair of tapes; the latter cut is preferred for the most critical editing where you might have to splice a single note of music. Once the cut is made, you peel off an adhesive patch, press it into place over the cut, and remove the excess to make a permanent bond.

We found the TS-215 to be a handy gadget, easy to use, and quite effective for its intended purpose. The only "difficult" operation involved is peeling the backing off the adhesive patches which are small and delicate enough to require more care and patience to use than their larger open-reel ancestors did.

CIRCLE 144 ON READER-SERVICE CARD

## 1970 EQUIPMENT REPORTS

### AMPLIFIERS (Basic)

Crown D-40	July
Dynaco Stereo 80	August
Harman-Kardon Citation XII	September
Quad 303	March

### AMPLIFIERS (Integrated)

Pioneer SA-900	July
Sony TA-1144	December

### AMPLIFIERS (Preamp)

Quad 33	March
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### CARTRIDGES

Audio Dynamics ADC 220X	December
Grado FTE	April
Shure V-15 Type II Improved	May

### COMPACT SYSTEMS

Sony HP-465	February
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### MICROPHONES

Altec Lansing 650A	July
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### RECEIVERS

Acoustic Research	November
Harman-Kardon 820	May
Heathkit AR-29	September
Radio Shack Realistic STA-120	August
Scott 342C	February
Sherwood S-8900	October

### SPEAKER SYSTEMS

Acoustic Research AR-2ax	September
Advent	May
Audio Dynamics ADC 303 AX	March
Electro-Voice Arres	February
EMI 205	April
Epicure EPI 100	January
Frazier Mediterranean	December
IMF TLS Monitor Mk II	June
Infinity Systems Servo-Statik I	June
KLH Thirty-Three	August
Lafayette Criterion 200A	June
Leak Mk III	October
Marantz Imperial III	November
Radio Shack Minimus 0.5	June

### TAPE RECORDERS

Ampex 146	October
Astrocom Marlux 407	May
Concord Mk III	July

Ferrograph 724	January
Fisher RC-70 Cassette	February
Harman-Kardon CAD-4 Cassette	January
Tandberg 6000X	December
Teac A-6010U	April
Wollensak 4700 Cassette	March

### TUNERS

Pioneer TX-900	November
Sony ST-5100	September

### TURNTABLES AND CHANGERS

BSR McDo.oid 500T	March
Dual 1219	January
Lesca PRF-6	August
Sherwood SEL-100	July

### MISCELLANEOUS

Advent Frequency Balance Control	April
Batty Stereo Dimension Control	November
Rabco 101 AR Adapter	May
Recoto 183TC Cassette Splicer	September
Robins TS-215 Cassette Splicer	December