

# BRYSTON

A Lifetime of Music

MEMO: To All Bryston Customers

SUBJECT: Best of CES 2016 – Bryston Cubed Amplifiers

February 2016



## Bryston 4B<sup>3</sup> (Cubed) stereo amplifier



“For me, the most important electronics introduced at CES 2016 were Bryston’s new Cubed amplifiers.

The 2.5B<sup>3</sup>, 3B<sup>3</sup>, and 4B<sup>3</sup> stereo amps and 7B<sup>3</sup>, 14B<sup>3</sup>, and 28B<sup>3</sup> monoblocks are all direct replacements of earlier, similarly named Squared models introduced eight

years ago, the names of all of which end with the suffix SST2. (For this new line, Bryston has decided to ditch SST and simply close the superscript 3 up to the B<sup>3</sup>.

Bryston’s SST2 models have long been held in high regard including by SoundStage! Network writers -- each model offers exceptional sound quality at a very reasonable price, and is backed by a 20-year warranty. And Bryston has a sterling reputation for fixing everything they make, no questions asked. (I’ve run across many companies that offer long warranties, but refuse to fix a problem if they can find a way to blame the buyer for it.)

The Cubed models are purported to sound and measure even better than the Squareds, mainly because of a new, patented input stage that Bryston claims reduces the Squared models’ levels of distortion by 90%. The rejection of common-mode and EMI/RFI noise are also said to be improved. And the Cubeds’ front panels look better than the Squareds’



To me, the sweet spot of Bryston's Squared line was the 4BSST2 stereo amp -- its power outputs of 300Wpc into 8 ohms or 500Wpc into 4 ohms are enough for most situations, and its retail price is low enough that many serious audiophiles on a budget can afford it.

For me, the 4BSST2 has always been a great benchmark to judge other amps against -- which is why, for a couple of years, my reference system included one. Now there's the 4B<sup>3</sup>, with the same specified power outputs and the improvements noted above. Given that the new models are all basically the same as the old, I suspect that the 4B<sup>3</sup> will remain the sweet spot in the new line.

As I write this, none of the prices for the Cubed models have been set. But if Bryston's prices for the new series remain in line with its past products, I suspect that the 4B<sup>3</sup> will not cost much more than the previous model -- in which case it should represent at least as good a value as its predecessor."

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