

LEJONKLOU

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KIKKIN 2

The heart of a preamplifier

Kikkin started in early 2008 as an attempt to make a very high quality integrated amplifier. Quite soon it became evident that the most difficult task was to optimise the volume control. Several different technologies were tried in an attempt to see which would show the most promise.

After almost half a year had passed, the challenge of perfecting the most promising volume control design was all that project Kikkin revolved around. About this time I began asking HiFi enthusiasts how they really used their preamplifiers. It turned out that a majority used it for switching between a few sources and controlling volume – nothing else. A minority used additional features, like digital and phono inputs. And another minority simply used it as a volume control, with only one source connected.

The interesting thing about the last group is that it appears to be growing rapidly. One reason for this is the increasing popularity of digitally streamed music, where one high quality source performs the conversion to analogue sound.

I became more and more convinced that a moderately priced preamplifier of outstanding quality, but with only one input, would make sense for a lot of people. Removing the signal switching improved performance, and in addition the unit could be physically smaller and less expensive to manufacture. What was left was the heart of a preamplifier.

Kikkin was finalised in December 2008. It consists of one stereo input and one stereo output. In between those there are input stages, volume circuits and output stages. All which serve only one purpose: To control the volume of your HiFi system with the highest possible sound quality.

In November 2009, **Kikkin 2** was released. It's an improved version with even less distortion than its predecessor. And in March 2010, it received a new firmware with improved sound and added functionality. In my opinion, there are no digital volume controls, and very few preamplifiers, that can match the sound quality of Kikkin 2.

What makes Kikkin so special?

- **In short:** It's a remote controlled stereo volume control – the heart of a preamplifier – designed for exceptional sound at an affordable price.
- The volume level is indicated with nine different colours. The advantage of this is that it's easy to use and requires no complicated, sound degrading and expensive circuitry.
- The thoroughly evaluated components used in the Kikkin are the very latest, highest performing and most reliable on the market.
- The power regulation that feeds the audio circuits uses a **Balanced Power** configuration, where an optimal amount of current is always flowing, regardless of the content of the musical signal.
- To keep the price low, Kikkin is efficiently assembled and machine soldered. Each unit is then measured, **individually tuned** and subsequently evaluated with the Tune Method to ensure optimal performance.
- Kikkin is designed and built in the European Union.
- Like all other Lejonklou products, Kikkin is **upgradeable** to the latest specification when the design is improved.