

NHT Presents: Controller and Power5

Whomever said, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," most probably stayed in a contented little rut for most of his or her existence, and that's fine. But is that cliché a recipe for growth? Hardly.

Take NHT, for example. For 20, count 'em, 20 years, this company has been praised for introducing some of the most honest speakers on the market, while only occasionally dabbling into the realm of electronics, and even then it was to complement speaker systems like our powered subs, Evolution and Xd lines. But, what



about the stuff that takes the source material and makes it sound just right before passing it along to our beloved transducers?

Good question. As fans of the brand know, NHT recently joined forces with Vinci Labs, a successful designer and manufacturer of electronics components, to form NHT, Inc. Our new colleagues know audio components as well as they know their own names (i.e., quite well), so, as soon as the ink dried, the team gathered to create a new series of NHT electronics that extend the company's high performance/high value ethos to a new multichannel preamplifier/processor and power amplifier, respectively dubbed Controller and Power5.

We know you know the basics; i.e. the Controller, like any high performance pre/pro, is a 7.1-channel model with all the codecs you'd expect in a current model. But, what really sets this piece apart from the competition are a few very NHT



benefits. For starters, the front panel features a modern "no knob, no button" Q-Wheel and Q-Touch design that presents intuitive operating controls and display functions that are uncluttered and easy to read.

More interesting to NHT faithful, however, is a set-up screen that asks the user if NHT speakers are part of the system. If the answer is in the affirmative, said user selects what speaker models are assigned to the respective channels, at which point

the Controller automatically adjusts all EQ, phase, low and high pass filters for the specific NHT speaker and subwoofer combination.

Understanding this mindset, NHT spared no expense on the Controller's HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface) digital interface, which acts as a conduit for both HD



Video and multichannel audio, ensuring the piece is future-resistant thanks to its architecture for compatibility with new technologies such as Bluetooth as they become standardized for home entertainment equipment.

On the amplifier side of the street, the Power5 is a 200 Watt per channel, Class D model designed for both powerful output and super high operating efficiency that results in a cooler, faster amplifier than most comparably priced products. (We'll get to the prices in a moment. It's worth the wait.) When interfaced with the Controller via the NHTBus, individual channels or groups of channels can be controlled and continuously monitored for operational status and overall "health" with virtually no user interaction required.

Aesthetically, the two pieces are designed to sync together in a rack, or just look good on their own. For those times when users prefer no visual distraction from the system, LED graphics power down, only to "wake up" when a hand is waved in front of the components.



Speaking of Xd, which is something we do on an hourly Ah, the price. Since we're old friends, we'll let you have the Controller for \$2,750, and the Power5 for \$2,000. Do we think this system is worth more? Of course, and we are willing to make a little less on the deal just to show where NHT is heading in the coming years.