



# Reference - Class Power Amplifier with Enormous Musicality

**The power section in hi-fi amplifiers is essential for achieving the finest sound, as it is virtually the motor of the entire system that ultimately drives the connected loudspeakers. True hi-fi enthusiasts therefore prefer, for the best possible sound, separate, externally housed power units - so-called power amplifiers. One of the world's finest power amplifiers comes from the small, refined hi-fi manufactory Symphonic Line.**



**Company founder and sonic "mastermind" Rolf Gemein of Symphonic Line has, for more than four decades, devoted himself with heart and soul exclusively to sound - critical aspects.**

The brand Symphonic Line originates in the heart of Duisburg and, over the past decades, has earned an outstanding reputation through its exceptionally high-quality, hand-crafted amplifiers and CD players. Almost a hidden gem, if one does not consciously follow the mainstream of hi-fi components. Behind the conception, the design, and the acoustic mastery of Symphonic Line stands its founder Rolf Gemein, who, with unimaginable meticulousness and dedication, has made the achievement of the world's finest sound his life's calling.

In Duisburg, with love for music, with heart and soul, and with musical sensitivity, the RG7 MKS power amplifier is manufactured. An important principle of Rolf Gemein is that the manufactory in Duisburg is guided by the conviction that all products are designed to provide their owners with first class music enjoyment for a lifetime. No device leaves the

manufactory without having been personally checked and refined down to the smallest detail. Even small circuit modifications are implemented only after intensive listening tests. Customers can speak directly with the manufacturer at any time - for every question and for every detail of fine adjustment.

Our review sample RG 7 MK 5 is the main model within the extensive twochannel power amplifier range and has for many years held the reputation of a reference-class amplifier. This particular test device corresponds to the latest MK 5 version, which is also available in the variant RG 7 MK 5 Reference Edition.

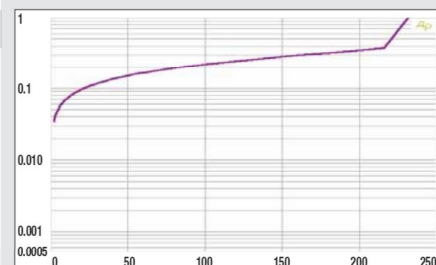
In this version, selected components are further optimized. The RG 7 MK 5 Reference Edition delivers a maximum output of 135 watts and was provided exclusively for evaluation in our listening room.

**RG 7 MKS Reference Edition** fact at 25 kilograms in weight, this solid amplifier brings serious mass to the scale and, with its size and volume, appears both solid, powerful, and imposing. From the outside, the RG 7 MK 5 Reference Edition impresses through its massive front panel and gigantic heat sinks.

Every single component of the RG 7 is meticulously examined for its sonic character, consciously selected and assembled in careful handcraft.



## TEST INFORMATION



### Performance

A solid 224 watts per channel distinguishes the RG7 MK 5 Reference Edition in our laboratory from many competitors. That is sufficient for unlimited dynamic potential and lends impulsive musical signals enormous vitality.

*Sprecher. Das reicht für ungemeinste Dynamik und Vielfalt.*

Particularly remarkable are the massive solid-metal rings surrounding the large toroidal transformers, suppressing highly specific resonances. Massive side panels form the foundation of the power amplifier stage.

The largest portion of weight, however, is carried by the dual-mono power supply inside. Here, two ring core transformers of generous dimensioning provide sufficient current for both of the class A/B output stages. Both transformers are mounted separately in their own rings made of massive metal, which effectively suppress vibration transmission via the housing. We deliberately chose this detail after years of listening sessions. In this regard, we agree entirely with the manufacturer's statement that sound, too, can be "compressed and stored" in the smallest structures and even in long cables - and subsequently released again. In fact, Rolf Gemei subjects every single component extensive listening tests. Every transistor, every capacitor, every resistor - each must first be "blessed," so to speak, before it is permitted to enter the Reference Edition.

In our Reference Edition, Rolf Gemei has already included gigantic capacitors of 320,000 µF for the power supply. Buffer capacitors are further increased. This enables an even faster, cleaner current delivery to the power transistors. Resistors of various types are also tested and selected from numerous high-grade examples. The same applies to the switchable input for symmetrical signals. Even costly input transformers are part of the standard equipment in the exquisite Reference Edition.

### Laboratory and Practical Performance

An appropriately dimensioned heat sink and the massive cooling body ensure optimal operating temperature and therefore maximum performance. All laboratory measurements of the MKS Reference Edition move within an extremely tight tolerance range. Even a signal-to-noise ratio of 91 dB (A), above average for 88 dB (A), and almost imperceptible distortion of 0.006% speak a clear language. The question of true output power is answered emphatically: Our laboratory determined a full 224 watts per channel

- more than sufficient for loudspeakers with virtually limitless dynamic mic capacity.

As a playing partner for a well-appointed high-end loudspeaker system, this full amplifier of the RG 7 requires nothing further. Its preamplifier section also proved to be outstanding in the listening test. It delivers musical substance with deep black backgrounds and a fine, harmonious flow across all frequency ranges.

Nothing is exaggerated, nothing understated. Balanced in presentation, sovereign in its authority, the large power amplifier plays with enormous power reserves and almost musical effortlessness. Its sheer musical performance invites unrestricted pleasure in listening. The tonal neutrality, coupled with the emotional authenticity and intense timbral beauty, leaves no doubt: This is a true Reference instrument. The superbly produced live recording of Richard Bargel and Klaus Major Heuser brings guitar music and vocals to life with such breathtaking realism that, within mere fractions of a second, one no longer perceives loudspea-

kers, amplifier, or listening room as separate entities, but instead finds oneself wholly immersed in the music presented - feeling every musical vibration as a tangible, three-dimensional presence within the space. With precise control in the bass, finely beaded overtones, and fantastically resolved tonal colors, the RG7 MK 5 Reference Edition transforms the act of listening to music into a truly profound experience.

**Conclusion** With the almost legendary stereo power amplifier RG 7 MK 5, Symphonic Line once again demonstrates impressively which musical achievements are possible when components are selected with uncompromising precision, circuit concepts are meticulously conceived, and every detail is implemented with the utmost dedication. With regard to effort and cost, this is a genuine reference instrument created for the highest aspirations. We gladly place the RG7 MK 5 Reference Edition in the absolute top category of our ranking. Dipl.-Ing. Michael Voigt

In the Reference Edition the symmetrized inputs, together with the input transformer (normally optional) are as well as solid loudspeaker terminals from WBT already standard.



## HiFi Power Amplifier - Symphonic Line RG 7 MK 5 Reference Edition

### Equipment

Versions	Matte silver, chrome upon request
Dimensions (W x H x D in mm)	430 X 170 X 330
Weight	25kg

Inputs	
Audio Cinch / XLR	1 / 1
Optical / Digital (opt.)	- / -
Loudspeaker terminals 1 pair / 2 pairs	x / -

Measurements	
Output (8 Ohm)	2 x 132 Watt
Output (4 Ohm)	2 x 224 Watt
Distortion (5 W at 8 Ohm)	0.006 %
Signal-to-noise ratio	91 dB (A)
Crosstalk	88 dB (A)
Damping factor (at 1 kHz)	260
Power consumption	
Standby / Off / 2 x 5 W	- / 0,0 W / 128 W

### Evaluation

Sound	70 %	1+
Laboratory	15 %	1+
Practical use	15 %	1+

- + incomparable musicality
- + enormous balance
- + extremely massive workmanship

Price	19.000 Euro
Distribution	Symphonic Line, Duisburg
Telephone	+49 203 315656
Internet	www.symphonic-line.de

Reference class 1+

**HiFi**  
5/25  
**Test**  
TV·HIFI

Price performance:  
good