

Graphic GX2000 - new high-end amplifier from Brax



The legend lives on

► It was 1997, at the height of the car hi-fi boom, when Brax introduced the legendary X2000. While the GX2000 may not be the direct successor model, it is a power amplifier in the tradition of the legend.

At the turn of the millennium, the Brax X2000 was considered as power amplifier for sound purists. The first time I heard it, I was totally blown away at the unbelievable precision with which the Brax meticulously laid out the music before the

listener. Some people were overwhelmed by the honesty of the amplifier, it didn't sound all too cozy - it was simply brutally honest. The entire X series is now a legend and I bet those who already own it will never give it up. In the meantime, Brax has

introduced the Matrix power amplifiers as new reference models, which replaced the X series as top models. With the GX2000 and GX2400, there are new high-end amplifiers, which do greatly resemble the X2000/X2400, but when it comes to details, they offer numerous innovations. The reason for their existence is simply the many inquiries that more or less coerced Brax into introducing something similar to the X amplifiers in the market. Naturally, as usual, the finest components, down to the very last screw, made in Germany.



Beneath the front chrome cover, there is the power choke typical for the Brax. To the right of it is the small driver power supply. The only control elements are the channel-separated volume adjusters, which are hidden underneath the cover.

After all, it was a matter of honor to bring the X, developed 18 years ago, up-to-date. The G in GX stands for Graphic, and we remember it from the Brax history. It used to stand for versions of the X amplifier that underwent additional tuning; with the current GX, Brax is introducing the name Graphic as a series name in addition to Matrix. Now they are specially tuned at the factory, as this used to imply meticulous selection of transistors, which is exactly the case with the GX now as well. And instead of the interconnects being reinforced with silver wire, the new GX features a 4-layer circuit board offering a much higher conductor cross-section.

An additional advantage is the new layout of the four layers, on which the signal and the power are strictly separated. Naturally, the new power supply has also been given a discreet face lift. It uses the latest components, such as the PWM modulator and the transistors, and we discover more buffering on the input. One feature retained is the separate connection for an external power cap, which is located directly on the buffers of the switching transistors. And of course there is still the power inductor, found in several Brax designs and typical for these amplifiers, it remains a consistent feature.

Then the driver stages of the GX2000 have been given their own small power supply, to ensure that the cleanest and most constant current is supplied to this component, which is so crucial for good sound. The drivers are reminiscent of the former Graphic drivers from

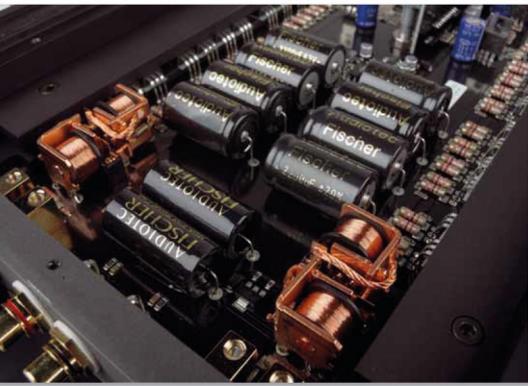
the 4-channel models of the X series, but here as well, revisions have been made in the details.

While they were at it, they decided to give the new GX2000 a small boost in performance. The outer sign of this is the beefed up number of transistors, now with 16 power transistors per channel. Finally, some improvements were made in the very front and the very rear of the amplifier: The new interference suppression coil, in combination with the high-end current terminals, ensure minimum resistance and utmost current capacity. This same philosophy is used with the extremely meticulous protection relays in front of the loudspeaker clamps, which, like the GX 2000, are now available two per channel.

For this type of straightforward configuration, it should come as no surprise that the GX also performs splendidly in the lab tests. That it would perform so incredibly well, however, even made us speechless. Naturally there's enough power with 290 and 520 Watts, but that alone is not what is so stunning. The manner in which the GX 2000 develops its power is sensational. At 4 Ohms, the performance curve runs along the 0.003 % line; the GX is a hard act to follow for other amplifiers. The attenuation factors are exorbitantly high and the signal-to-noise ratio is scratching at the 100 dB limit. Here the GX benefits somewhat from the complete lack of filtering equipment. In final analysis, one thing is certain: when it comes to amplifiers, the GX2000 is a force to be reckoned with.



Purist: There is nothing to configure on the GX. Just high-quality bushings and terminals, including a special connection for power caps, which leads directly to the condensers



The most elegant solution for a protection circuit: Two separate relays made of solid copper separate the loudspeakers when necessary, naturally process-controlled.

Sound

When the GX then produces its first tones, you suddenly know what you were missing with all other amplifiers without realizing it. It is fascinating how much more transparency, more verve, more music the GX produces. It appears with stoic calm and exudes confidence with each tone that it will

If that's not eye candy, then what is? The GX2000 already indicates through its configuration that it is one of the best power amplifiers of all time.

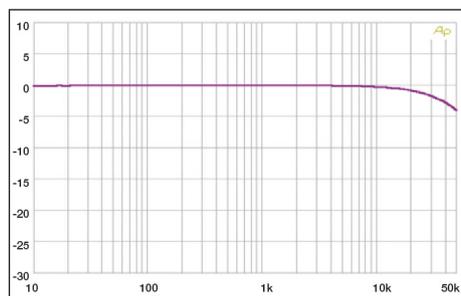


take all conceivable dynamic leaps in stride. This explosiveness down to the detail is fascinating, yet not only when listening carefully to test tracks, but also when the GX is playing in the "background", it conveys a basic satisfaction owing to its natural and fluid musicality. Let's make no mistake about it, the Brax can make vocals sound sweet, only to turn around and deliver raspy, glass-hard passages with brutal guitar riffs – and it does so with devotion and accuracy that makes it a true joy. It simply has control to the nth degree, coupled with musicality. You can still hear that merciless quality, but the honesty the X2000 wears on its sleeve has given way to mellowness with a hint of warmth – you cannot help but like it.

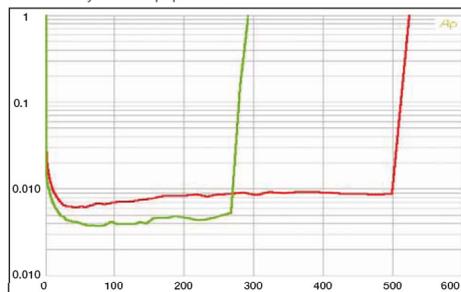
Conclusion

The new GX2000 has become stroke of genius, an amplifier of the finest engineering, with top-notch ingredients and a sound that makes it difficult to believe anything could be better than this.

Elmar Michels



One stroke of a pen and it was decided. The Brax does without any filter equipment.



Sensationally low distortions. The GX is among the best we've ever measured.

BEST PRODUCT
Absolutely top-notch
CAR & HIFI 6/2015

Brax GX2000

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Sales | Audio Design, Kronau |
| Hotline | +49(0) 7253 9465-0 |
| Internet | www.audiodesign.de |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-------|
| ▶ Sound | 40 % | 0,8 | ■■■■■ |
| Bass response | 8 % | 1,0 | ■■■■■ |
| Neutrality | 8 % | 1,0 | ■■■■■ |
| Transparency | 8 % | 0,5 | ■■■■■ |
| Auditory spaciousness | 8 % | 1,0 | ■■■■■ |
| Dynamics | 8 % | 0,5 | ■■■■■ |
| ▶ Lab | 35 % | 0,9 | ■■■■■ |
| Performance | 20 % | 1,0 | ■■■■■ |
| Damping factor | 5 % | 0,5 | ■■■■■ |
| Signal-to-noise ratio | 5 % | 1,0 | ■■■■■ |
| THD | 5 % | 0,5 | ■■■■■ |
| ▶ Practice | 25 % | 1,4 | ■■■■■ |
| Features | 15 % | 2,0 | ■■■■■ |
| BQ electronics | 5 % | 0,5 | ■■■■■ |
| BQ mechanics | 5 % | 0,5 | ■■■■■ |

Technical data

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Channels | 2 |
| Output power @ 4 Ohms (x4/x2) | 289 |
| Output power @ 2 Ohms (x4/x2) | 520 |
| Output power @ 1 Ohm (x4/x2) | 0 |
| Output power bridged @ 4 Ohms (x4/x2) | 1040 |
| Output power bridged @ 2 Ohms (x4/x2) | 0 |
| Sensitivity max. mV | 1190 |
| Sensitivity min. V | 9,6 |
| THD+N (<22 kHz) 5 W | 0,005 |
| THD+N (<22 kHz) half load | 0,003 |
| Signal-to-noise ratio dB(A) | 99 |
| Damping factor 20 Hz | 2240 |
| Damping factor 80 Hz | 2248 |
| Damping factor 400 Hz | 2242 |
| Damping factor 1 kHz | 2241 |
| Damping factor 8 kHz | 2243 |
| Damping factor 16 kHz | 4307 |

Features

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lowpass | - |
| Highpass | - |
| Bandpass | - |
| Bass boost | - |
| Subsonic filter | - |
| Phase shift | - |
| Highlevel inputs | - |
| Power automatic (Auto sense) | - |
| RCA outputs | - |
| Dimensions (L x W x H in mm) | 473 x 238 x 53 |
| Others | Connection for Brax IPC Power cap |

Rating

| | | |
|---------------|------|-------------------|
| Price | | around 2.300 Euro |
| Sound | 40 % | 1+ ■■■■■ |
| Lab | 35 % | 1+ ■■■■■ |
| Practice test | 25 % | 1,4 ■■■■■ |

Brax GX2000

Absolutely top-notch
Top-notch
Upper class
Middle class
Entry level

1,0

Price performance:
excellent

CAR & HIFI

Edition 6/2015

„One of the best power amplifiers of all time“