

# Audiophile APS 1000 Audio Power Supply



This power line conditioner is the top of the line unit of five models from this Canadian manufacturer, a newcomer to the industry. The company produces unique products that provide, in addition to pure alternate current (AC), a back-up source for power when the hydro electric companies break down, as we experienced in August, 2003.

Audiophile APS Inc. is a group of audio enthusiasts with an extensive understanding of North America's electrical system and its power quality. Damian Janzen brings years of experience to the company as his background includes supplying power protection for lab equipment, computer systems and industrial applications. Also contributing was an experienced electrical engineer with a world wide reputation as an expert in electrical Power quality.

Richard Janzen is a marketing executive who's company presented the annual Power Care conference and published an

Online magazine devoted to electrical power quality and efficiency.

The three partners were painfully aware of the deteriorating North American electrical grid and the associated power problems that affected the performance of sensitive electrical devices, especially audio and video components. While they are familiar with the various power conditioners sold to the audio and home theatre market, in their opinion these designs are "too convoluted, too expensive and too limited in their functions". The APS under review is a design based on the proven double conversion technology regularly employed in such applications as electronic test equipment, laser systems, electron microscopes and industrial process logic controllers. The principals' knowledge of such designs allowed them to create an audio power supply (APS) that adapts the technology to the special needs of the high end audio and home theatre market.

Source:  
Audiophile APS

Price:  
\$2,995.00 Cdn  
\$2,495.00 US

Rating:  
4 musical notes

## Appearance:

It is rare to find a utilitarian component that combines function with aesthetic appeal, but this unit is an exception. It can be installed in a rack in a horizontal position or mounted on four "legs" in the upright position. We found the upright position visually appealing and, as a bonus, space saving. The housing is metal finished in black with a solid aluminum face plate. On the front panel, there are a number of small LEDs to indicate the unit's status when in operation. An on/off switch is the only function located next to the LEDs. The unit's rear accommodates six hospital-grade AC outlets and a connector for additional battery modules. An optional adapter provides additional outlets plus surge protection for two coax inputs and outputs; one phone line input with two outputs and an input, as well as an output jack for RJ 45 cable. The APS 1000 is rated for 1050 watts and can deliver over 1500 watts for peak draws. It measures 3.5 inches high, 17 inches wide, 19.4 inches deep and weighs 50 pounds.

## Technology:

The basic function of the APS is to provide unpolluted AC to audio/video components. It's done by converting hydro electric power (AC), to DC (direct current) via a rectifier, then back to alternate current (AC). The unit provides an absolutely clean source of electrical energy—120 volts of AC power with voltage regulation rated at +/-3%, frequency regulation at +/-3 hertz and an efficiency rating of 89 to 92%, (load dependent). The APS allows continuous operation with voltage input variations from a poor 80 volts to a hazardous 140 volts and automatically addresses frequency differences of between 45 and 65 Hertz. As well, it supplies the same clean AC from battery reserves if voltage or frequency deviate even further. The unit houses a battery which is placed on the DC side and, to render reliable current and voltage, is independent of the hydro electric utility's varying conditions.

## The reviews are in . . . the Audiophile APS is a hit!

" . . . all looked and sounded spectacular, with great dynamics and a superb high definition picture . . ."

— Audio Ideas Guide, Volume 24, Issue #4, 2003

" . . . we had two very power hungry systems that can draw as much as 1000 watts . . . the APS handled the load effortlessly when in regeneration mode . . . [The APS] picked up subtle distinctive and complex tonal structures never ascertained before. Midrange clarity improved as well."

— The Inner Ear, December 2003

If you want your audio and home theatre systems to perform up to their potential, supply them with pure AC power.

The Audiophile APS delivers just that. Pure regenerated AC power from an advanced double conversion technology. It lets power hungry amps draw the current they need to reach their full dynamic range. It gives components power free of noise and distortion that allows them to perform at their best.



Product, technical and purchasing details available at [www.audiophileaps.com](http://www.audiophileaps.com) or 905.812.8795.



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AUDIOPHILE APS

## The Sound:

For our test, we used a pair of Bryston 7B SST monoblocks (reviewed in Vol. 15 #1) and the Accustic Arts power amplifier reviewed in this issue. Thus, we had two very power-hungry systems that can draw as much as 1000 watts when in operation. To “burden” the unit as much as possible we operated two completely independent audio systems simultaneously (that’s two amplifiers handling two pairs of loudspeakers with two source components). The APS handled the loads effortlessly when in the regenerating mode (plugged into the wall outlet). We then pulled the plug (so to speak) and, to our utmost surprise, the system(s) continued to perform as though power hadn’t been interrupted at all. The built-in batteries met the considerable demands of the power amplifiers and never flinched, even when we played back very demanding material with oodles of dynamics. So far, so good; but what about the sonic benefits? Well, as we had simply unplugged the amplifiers from our in-house Tice Powerblock—a vintage model circa 1989—it didn’t take very long to realize differences. While the Tice always supplied the desired voltage and kept it reasonably stable, the APS raised the amplifiers’ performance considerably. Bass performance—body, resolution and texture—had always been the Tice’s forte. However, the APS matched the Tice’s body and resolution and also picked up subtle, distinctive and complex underlying tonal structures never ascertained before. Midrange clarity improved as well and may be the result of the amplifiers’ noise-free performance. Compared with the Tice, the APS allowed better, more clear-cut imaging, focus and time-based accuracy. (Time-based or timing relates to the time aspect of any repetitive pattern such as cycles per second.) The all-round listening experience is best described as a combination of melodic ease, refinement, lucidity and musical authenticity—and both amplifiers exhibited these improvements.

## Synopsis & Commentary:

In addition to the hydro electric company in your area, every household creates its own AC problems—usually by distorting waveforms. The sources include fluorescent lighting, refrigerators, motors, air conditioners, computer power supplies, just to name a few. As all of these appliances share electricity with the audio or video system (including monitors) it stands to reason that much of the “garbage” is being fed into the household AC, degenerating the performance of every electrical device. While refrigerators, stoves and other appliances can and will perform faultlessly under these conditions, the operation of computers and audio/video gear is greatly impaired. A good power line conditioner will address AC voltage, spikes, transients, surges and to some degree, phase distortion. Few, if any, address harmonic voltage and current distortions as successfully as the APS. We see this unit as a privately owned power station that doesn’t rely on a utility power grid that’s obviously outdated and likely will create a lot more problems in the future. It would have been useful during the blackout that continued for over 24 hours in our Toronto studio. With the (optional) additional power pack, we could have had lights on for almost a whole day, not to mention the use of a TV. The company offers two smaller, lower priced units, the APS 500, rated at 500 watts, and the APS 700 rated at 700 watts retailing for US \$1,795 and \$2,195 respectively. Hearing is believing in this business, so audition one soon—you may like it as much as we do.

[www.audiophileaps.com](http://www.audiophileaps.com)



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