



Real bass, they correctly reasoned, is best produced by powered subwoofers. Although Polk recommends its \$480 PSW404 as the ideal sub for the RM30, we prefer the less expensive and more tuneful PSW12. The RM101, the RM30's smaller sibling, is the perfect companion for surround effects. (Reviewed in Issue 71)

1067 a beefy, high-quality power supply and carefully chosen, high-performance, low-noise parts, which are applied throughout the receiver's audio signal paths.

The result, TPV found, is an A/V receiver that sounds "clearer, more three-dimensional, and more accurate than most comparably priced AVRs," which if anything is an understatement. In terms of sonic

## A/V Controller of the Year

### Arcam FMJ AV9

\$5790

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

Arcam's FMJ (for Full Metal Jacket) AV9 controller isn't inexpensive at nearly six grand, but its sonic performance rivals that of megabuck controllers. The AV9 is one of those products that, although pricy, gets you most of the way to the state of the art without costing as much as a decent new car.

The AV9's magic comes from its extraordinary attention to design details, particularly the emphasis on isolating the audio circuits from extraneous noise. Arcam's heroic measures in this regard are appar-



Rotel RSX-1067

## A/V Receiver of the Year

### Rotel RSX-1067

\$2199

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

Given the choice between lavish and elaborate features versus good, old-fashioned sound quality, we'll pick AVRs that emphasize sound quality every time, and apparently Rotel feels the same way. Rotel's flagship RSX-1067 receiver deliberately omits features some AVR makers regard as standard, such as automated setup/room EQ functions, extensive DSP modes, HDMI support, i.Link interfaces, or iPod docks. But in exchange, Rotel has given its RSX-

transparency, holographic imaging, neutral tonal balance, and expressive dynamics, the mid-priced RSX-1067 can hold its own in comparison to many flagship AVRs up in the \$4k range.

Obviously, the RSX-1067 does not attempt to be all things to all people; instead it is an AVR created by and for enthusiasts for whom sound quality is the highest priority. As such, the Rotel is one of the few AVRs on the market that might satisfy even finicky audiophiles. (Reviewed in Issue 68)



ent in the AV9's extremely clean, clear, and transparent sound quality. The AV9 is like a piece of just-washed window, imposing virtually no coloration, smearing, or grain on the signals passing through it. You'll hear every low-level detail in film soundtracks with startling clarity, explosive dynamics, and a natural ease that doesn't give you a headache an hour into the movie. As great as the AV9 is on film soundtracks, it positively shines on stereo and multichannel music. In fact, the AV9 competes with high-end