

# Herald Sun

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## TECHNOLOGY

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### Sounds like a winner

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WE HAVE seen it happen with the follow-up to many an award-winning film or novel: the sequel lacks the punch of the original and fails dismally.

This isn't the case with McIntosh and the new MC275 valve power amplifier, a model that made its debut in the 1960s.



**Improvement:** The 2005 version of the MC275 amplifier will win more fans for McIntosh.

A limited number of commemorative MC275s were built from '93 to '96 and were quickly snapped up.

Now McIntosh has revamped the MC275 yet again, and released it as the "new" MC275 (right). The original model was rated a hefty 75W a channel and configured to connect speakers with an impedance measuring 4, 8 or 16 ohms.

The '93 commemorative edition mimicked the original right down to the quaint speaker terminal strips, captive power cable and lack of on/off power switch. The current incarnation keeps the strips, while adding a detachable power cable and an on/off switch.

Internally, it has a single computer-designed circuit board instead of the point-to-point wiring of the '60s amplifier.

The valve compliment of the 2005 amplifier consists of four KT88 output tubes and three 12AX7A and four 12AT7 input tubes.

Where looks are concerned, there's little difference between the three models. Each has a basic configuration that sees three potted transformers sitting on top of a matte-black chassis and bedecked with chrome.

The 2005 MC275 was used with a Musical Fidelity Tri-Vista universal player, an Arcam CD33T CD player, Wilson Sophia and ProAc Response One SC speakers.

A Shunyata Hydra Four-power filter, Shunyata Aries interconnects and Shunyata Phoenix speaker cables were used.

The current MC275 leapfrogs the '93 amplifier in several crucial areas. It is more neutral and maintains a firmer grip in the bass frequencies.

It also responds to musical transients faster and stops and starts as the music demands, without even a trace of overhang.

It costs \$5299, almost half the price of the '93 version.