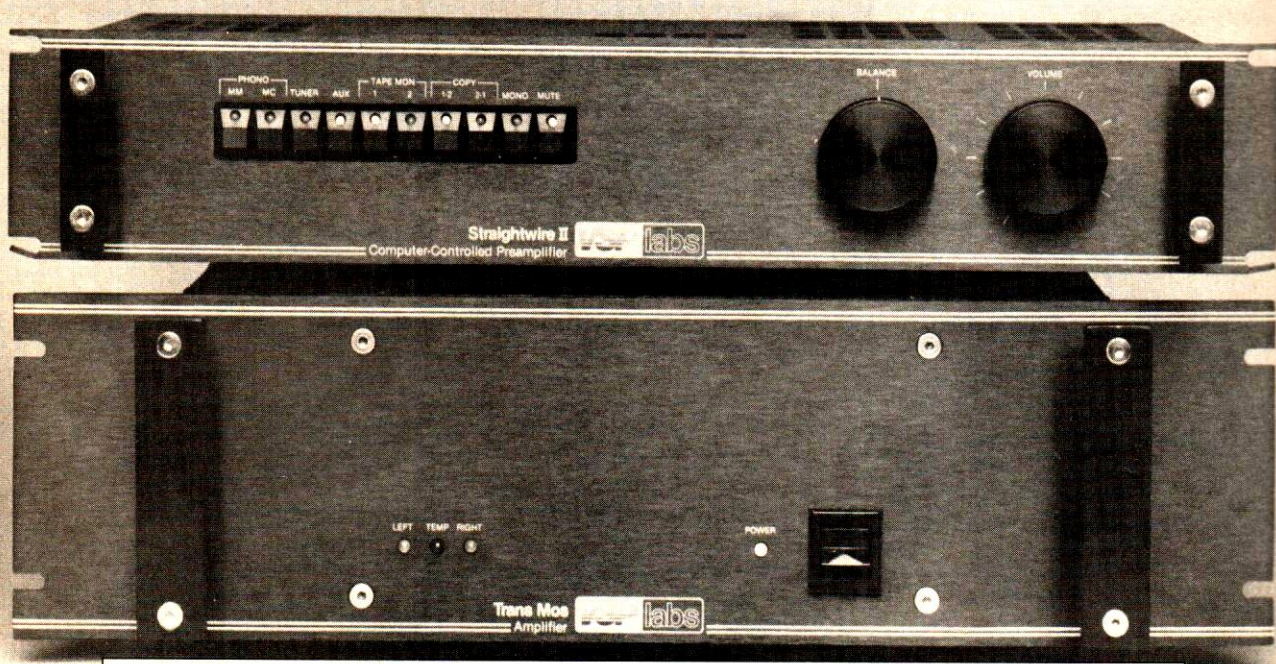


# A Dynamic Duo from VSP

Pre- and power amplifiers from a single manufacturer usually are reviewed as a system. The VSP Labs' Straightwire II preamp and Trans Mos 150 power amp

work well together, but their designs make them compatible with a wider than normal range of audio components from other manufacturers.

by E. Brad Meyer



*The VSP Straightwire II preamplifier provides reliable operation and excellent sound for \$995—a "borderline high-end" price.*

*At \$975, VSP's Trans Mos 150 power amplifier may not offer the sheer watts per dollar of competitor amps, yet it offers a lot for the money.*

## The VSP Straightwire II Preamp

High-end preamplifiers are usually either elaborate or extremely simple. Some have all the inputs and signal processing features needed to form the hub of a complex audio system. Others are simple to the point of starkness, on the theory that fewer electronic components, contacts, and

switches in the circuit provide purer sound.

The VSP Straightwire II preamplifier is an unusual mixture of these two approaches. The front panel contains only two knobs, Volume and Balance, and a row of 10 push buttons. The buttons don't switch audio signals; they send

control signals to relays. Each button has a yellow light-emitting diode (LED) to indicate when its function is active.

The buttons are labeled "Phono MM" (for conventional moving-magnet cartridges), "Phono MC" (for low-output moving-coil models), Tuner, Aux, Tape Mon 1 and 2, Copy 1-2 and