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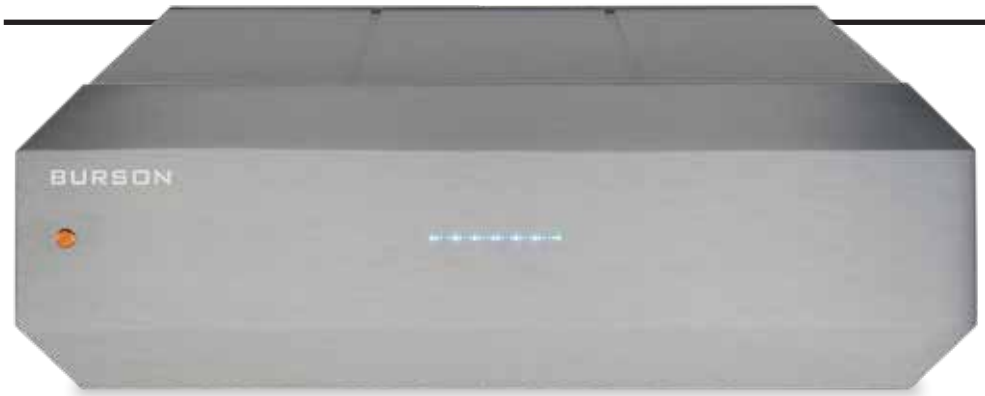
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hi-fi news YEARBOOK 26 OUTSTANDING PRODUCT

Mono power amplifier. Rated at 100W/8ohm
Made by: Burson Audio Pty Ltd, Melbourne, Australia
Supplied by: Armour Home Electronics Ltd, Herts
Telephone: 01279 501111
Web: www.bursonaudio.com; www.armourhome.co.uk
Price: £6200 (inc. 2x Fusion Core PSUs)

AUDIO FILE



Burson Audio Timekeeper Voyager V-400

Designed as a partner for the likes of Burson's Conductor Voyager DAC/pre/headphone amp [*HFN* Mar '26], the Timekeeper Voyager V-400 defies convention in a number of ways. For a start, despite a diminutive 265x85mm (wh) size, it doesn't take the obvious route of a Class D topology, preferring a Class AB output (rated 100W/8ohm) and heavily biased into Class A.

Secondly, the Timekeeper Voyager comes with Burson's substantial 32V Fusion Core GaN-FET switchmode power supply. Similarly styled in ribbed aluminium casework, albeit more compact, this operates at a claimed 1MHz and connects via a screened 4-pin umbilical. There is PSU regulation and filtering within the Voyager amp itself, its 'Silent Power' (SP2) modules claiming an ultra-low 0.8µV residual noise floor.

> 'Burson started in 1996 and grew out of the world of "head-fi"'

The rest of the amp's rear is simple, with unbalanced RCA and balanced XLR ins, both with gain boost switches, alongside a single set of terminals for speaker connection and 12V trigger in/out. There's no AC mains switching on the Fusion Core power supplies – once everything is connected, the outboard PSUs automatically switch on when the amps are fired up.

In common with the enthusiast philosophy of Burson, which started life in 1996 and grew out of the world of 'head-fi', the Timekeeper Voyager can be modified with substitute PSU conditioning modules and upgraded op-amps. Our samples were already fitted with the aforementioned SP2 Silent Power modules, and with Burson's custom V7 discrete op-amps installed in that Class A input 'buffer' stage. The manual gives full instructions for stripping down the amplifiers and changing these components should you feel brave or just curious.

TINY DANCERS

Yes, these bijou amps looked faintly ridiculous sitting between the huge Wilson Audio Alexx Vfx floorstanders in the *HFN* Listening Room [*HFN* Yearbook '25]. Yet despite the equally ridiculous price differential, they proved rather special, sounding very much 'up for it' when pumping out 'The Warning' from Nine Inch Nails' *Nine Inch Noize* [Null Corporation]. This track is all about slamming bass and driving rhythms, and was given a suitably aggressive, upfront presentation.

Playing the more understated *Untouched Takeaway* live set from Nick Lowe [Bandcamp download], Burson's mono amplifiers delivered a fine sense of presence and 'live-ness'. Lowe's relaxed voice was as well realised as the minimal instrumentation on 'Shaking On The Hill', while the mainly acoustic version of 'Peace, Love And Understanding' had a fabulously close-up quality. Tracks with larger musical forces, meanwhile, showed excellent scale and weight.

That sense of 'live' is a hallmark of the Timekeeper Voyager sound, revealed by their depiction of the 'Carousel' waltz from the Sinfonia of London's recreation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein score [Chandos]. There was also a total confidence in the way they handled the easy swing of the music, then the speed of the central section, with its feeling of the eponymous ride running out of control.

Wrapping up with some rock 'n' roll swagger, The Who's 'Baba O'Riley', from *Who's Next* [UMC], sounded as dramatic as ever, its grumbling subterranean bass and Keith Moon's thundering drums underpinning Daltrey's raw vocals and that familiar windmilling guitar. Burson's Timekeeper Voyager amps have it sorted – and in some style.

ABOVE: One monoblock amplifier is seen here – a second amp and two 32V Fusion Core PSUs are required for stereo operation. The row of LEDs on the compact casework's fascia indicates status – XLR in (blue); with +6dB extra gain (cyan); RCA in (red); +6dB extra gain (green). The Class AB power amp stage is mounted on the base of the chassis, the three pairs of Exicon MOSFET power transistors cooled via a fan with air exiting through a vent on the rear of the case

VERDICT

Small but mighty is a cliché, but one that sums up these compact power amplifiers. They run hot, so don't be tempted to box them in: instead, put them on display and enjoy their open yet hard-hitting sound.

HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Power output (<1% THD, 8/4ohm)	155W / 275W
Dynamic power (<1% THD, 8/4/2/1ohm)	155W / 281W / 460W / 542W
Output imp. (20Hz–20kHz/100kHz)	0.045-0.048ohm / 0.073ohm
Freq. resp. (20Hz–20kHz/100kHz)	–0.05dB to –0.1dB/–0.75dB
Input sensitivity (for 0dBW/100W)	170 (340mV) / 1743 (3400mV)
A-wtd S/N ratio (re. 0dBW/100W)	96.0dB / 116.0dB
Distortion (20Hz-20kHz, 1W/10W)	0.0014-0.004% / 0.004-0.01%
Power consumption (Idle/Rated o/p)	75W / 215W
Dimensions (WHD) / **Weight** (each)	265x85x270mm / 7kg