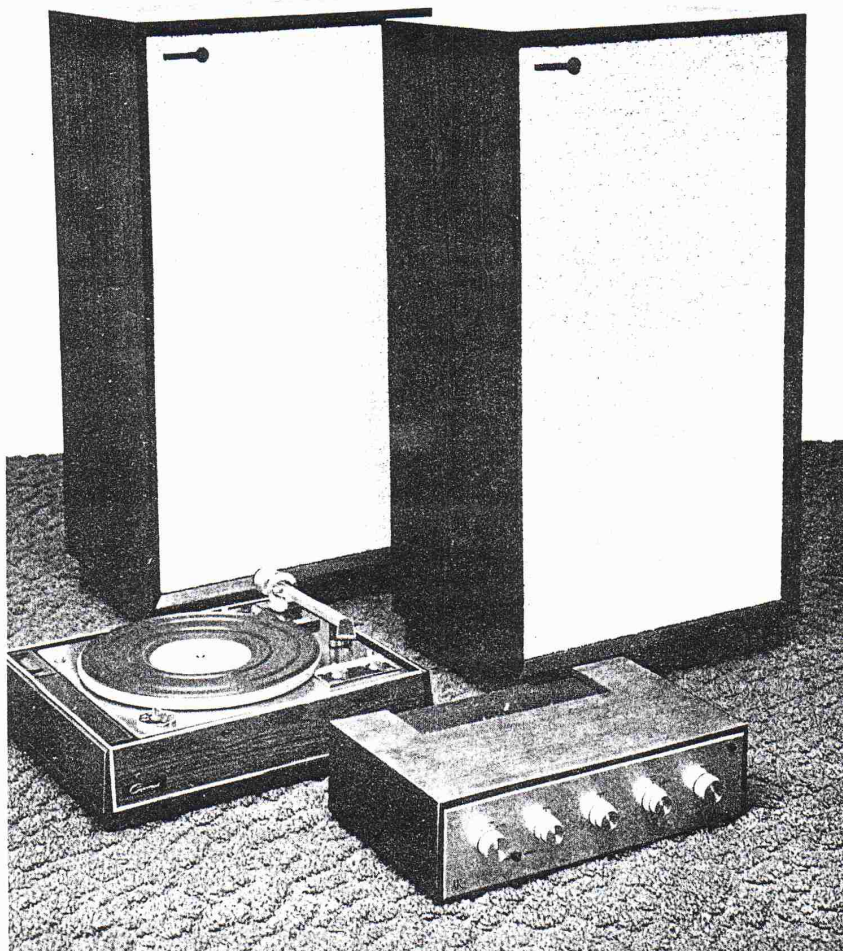


# The Stereo System I Wish I Owned

From 1968 components, PS's Electronics Editor picks the four units he likes best and gets a surprise: a system that costs less than \$1,000

By RONALD M. BENREY / PS Electronics Editor



Record Player — The Garrard SL-95    Cartridge — The Empire 999VE    Amplifier — The AR Amplifier, Solid State  
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**S**omewhere, mixed up in my daydreams about driving a Ferrari, piloting my own jet plane, and living on the French Riviera, is owning the perfect stereo system.

That last daydream is the closest one (for me) to reality, and it comes at a price that may surprise you: You can spend \$5,000 for a stereo rig, but my dream system costs less than \$1,000, and I can't believe that a more expensive set of components could produce significantly better sound.

**The speakers.** The ones I'd choose are the first product of Rectilinear Research, Inc. (30 Main St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201), a new company. Their Model IIIs are the finest loudspeakers I've ever listened to, regardless of size, type, or price. They produce beautiful bass tones without boom, accurate midrange tones without a trace of coloration, and crystal-clear treble tones without a hint of harshness. And they do it at any volume, including "window-rattling" sound levels.

By today's standards, the IIIs aren't small—at 35 inches high, 18 wide, 12 deep—but then, each contains six loudspeakers: a 12-inch woofer, a five-inch midrange, and four tweeters ranging in size from two to 2½ inches, all coupled to an unusually complex crossover network. The pair costs \$558.

## THE SPEAKERS

The Rectilinear IIIs, each capable of accepting 100 watts of audio power, require at least a 20-watt-per-channel amplifier. They're speakers of conventional, rather than acoustic-suspension, design.