

The Hafler Tradition

A legend in the audio business, David Hafler is regarded by many as the Henry Ford of high fidelity. David Hafler's design philosophy has influenced the audio industry for nearly half a century as he consistently achieved his goal: creating products that offer elegantly simple circuitry while providing superior sound at affordable prices. By the early 1950's this passion and sensitivity to superior sound quality led to his patented Ultra-Linear transformer technology, used to this day as the crucial element in high-end vacuum tube amplifiers. David made these transformers at his Acrosound Co. for other companies. His desire to further popularize high fidelity next led to the formation of Dyna Co. and the watershed Dynakits.

In 1976 the David Hafler Company was formed with a mission like that of Dynakit--to be enacted this time in the solid-state arena. These designs introduced the Hitachi Lateral Mosfet to the western world, wrapped in Erno Borbely's double-differential topologies. It was not long until the outstanding sonic quality and exceptional value of amplifiers such as the DH-200 caused professional recording studio engineers to begin using and relying on them, leading to the introduction of more Hafler amplifiers having additional features specifically tailored to the professional user's needs.

In 1987 Hafler Co. was acquired by Rockford Corporation of Tempe Arizona. This led to further new products including the patented Transnova 9500 power amplifier--destined to again revolutionize the standards of high fidelity and exceptional value--all the more remarkable for an amplifier costing about \$2000. As before, the largest recording studios adopted this amplifier as their standard, but they needed balanced-line inputs. Jim Strickland, VP of engineering for Rockford and lead designer of the 9500, wanted to make sure that this feature, which "stretches" the signal path a bit, would not degrade the amplifier's revered sound quality. To this end, a discrete J-fet input buffering system was developed which allowed the amplifier core itself to become the balanced-line receiver--yielding the PRO-9505.

The present generation of the 9505 (and some other Hafler and Rockford-Fosgate amplifiers) also have a new circuit called Dynamically Invariant AMplification Optimized Nodal Drive (*Diamond*), previously called *Diablo*. This remarkable circuit, U.S. Patent 5,673,000 (and another pending) solves an age old problem found inside of amplifier topologies, especially those with Mosfet output devices: devising a driver circuit with far greater current headroom than the 2:1 peak-to-quiescent ratio of Class A stages, while fully maintaining the revered linearity of a Class A stage--with the inherent benefits of cascaded signal paths.