

*2011*  
the **Stereo Times**  
*Most Wanted Components*

## **Burson Audio HA-160D**

Burson Audio produces among the most densely musical DACs, preamps and headphone amps I have ever heard. So what? So the HA-160D has all of them in one box-- that's what!! In fact, it's a sleek, sexy and superbly built one, to boot. Now, particularly in audio, nothing is all things to all men (and the women who put up with us), but individually, the dedicated DAC, preamp and head amp that reside within this solid silver box are pieces which, by turns, are capable of holding their own with individual standalone competitors at higher price points. And here's the rub-- not only can the DAC, preamp and head amp therein hold their own with pricier gear, there's something this little silver box does that's rare at any price-- it allows music to ebb and flow and breathe. In short, it does that ineffable something that only great gear does. That Burson has been able to bundle three such high performance, "emotionally riveting" pieces into a sleek box that sells for \$1,250 bucks? Well that's just plain scary. Dunno what's in the New Zealand water, but Nicole Kidman and now this?!

Order me a couple cases worth.