



Mavis Labs M90P — Vietnam's Shining Surprise

Every now and then, something unexpected lands on your audio rack — something that makes you stop, stare, and think, “Wait, this came from where?” The Mavis Lab M90P Integrated Hybrid Amplifier, proudly made in Vietnam, is one of those delightful surprises. It’s a product that not only looks stunningly retro but also sounds remarkably refined — proof that great hi-fi design is no longer confined to the traditional strongholds of Japan, the U.S., or Europe.

Coming in at an MSRP of RM37,000 the Mavis Labs M90P is slightly pricey but you will be surprised as to what sonic satisfaction it brings to the table ... or should I say, rack.

Product link:

<https://mavis-lab.com/master-series/m90p/>



Retro Chic, Modern Soul

First impressions matter and the M90P nails it. The twin white VU meters on the front panel dance gracefully with the music, glowing softly like a page from the golden age of hi-fi.

The Bakelite-style knobs feel satisfyingly solid and the tubes are proudly displayed under a mirror-chrome compartment — a thoughtful touch that balances protection and aesthetics. There's something irresistibly classic about it — a design that whispers vintage charm yet feels entirely at home in 2025.

It's clear that Mavis Labs didn't just build an amplifier, they built an experience. The tactile pleasure of the controls, the shimmer of the chrome and the glow of the tubes combine to make the M90P look and feel like it belongs in a collector's gallery or a hipster's living room.

Getting to Know

The M90P is a hybrid Class AB amplifier with a high bias. It's not your average Class AB with a mere 5-10w in Class A. Total output is 110 wpc to an 8ohm load or 150 wpc into a 4ohm load.

Engineering with Intent

Don't let the good looks fool you, there's some serious engineering underneath. The M90P offers switchable bias settings, letting you choose between 20 watts or 40 watts in Class A mode. That flexibility means you can tailor it to your speakers or your listening mood.

What's especially impressive is that Mavis Labs has managed to pull off a zero-feedback design — a bold move that many larger, more established brands shy away from. The result? A smooth, natural presentation that flows effortlessly, without the artificial tightness or glare that feedback-heavy amps sometimes impose.

There's also a Dynamic Sound and Standard Sound toggle, which acts like a subtle 'loudness function'. It gives the signal a tiny nudge, adding a hint of presence, though in practice the difference is minimal. That restraint speaks volumes about the confidence of the design, it doesn't need tricks to sound good.



A Sound that Sings

From the first listen, the M90P charms with its sweet, smooth tonality. There's no brittleness in the trailing edges, no digital glare, no fatigue. The bass is taut and controlled, offering excellent grip without bleeding into the mids. The midrange, meanwhile, is crisp and articulate, lending vocals and instruments a tangible sense of presence.

The top end extends just enough, staying refined and silky rather than forward or sharp. It's not a showy amp, but a musical one ... the kind that lets you sink into a playlist for hours. The soundstage is wide and open, with impressive layering and instrument separation. Everything sits where it should.

And it's quiet, remarkably quiet. Background noise is nearly nonexistent, allowing delicate details to emerge naturally. It's the kind of amplifier that rewards you for listening deeper.

Hot Stuff — Literally

One word of caution: the M90P runs hot. Those big heatsinks aren't just for show. In High Bias Class A mode, you'll feel the warmth radiating off it after a few tracks, a reminder that this is a serious amplifier pushing serious current.

But that heat is part of its charm. It's alive, breathing, doing something. And in return, it gives you sound that's deeply satisfying ... alive, dynamic and human.



Some Comparisons

It's most unfair to pit the Willsenton R8 against the M90P. But what about an R8 which is fully loaded with a set of Ray Tubes Select? The Ray Tubes takes the R8 to a whole new level, however, it cannot match the M90P (with stock tubes), in sweetness and refinement.

I must admit that I am a Cary Audio fanboy. Have always been partial to their house sound.

The Cary Audio SLI-80HS brings the price closer to the M90P ... RM27,400 vs RM37,000. The Cary with stock EH tubes won't cut it. Not the fault of Cary Audio but IMO, EH tubes are just nasty. So, you will want to get some NOS tubes for the 6922s and 6SN7s along with a quad of current production KT88s or 6550s by Gold Lion or TungSol. I'd say by then, it might be a difficult choice. Despite being a Cary Audio fanboy, I am tempted to lean towards the M90P.

How about the Line Magnetic LM805ia? Again, with the stock tubes, it's nothing much to shout about.

Once you upgrade the 6SL7, 6SN7, 300B and 805 to NOS (6SL7 & 6SN7) and premium current production ones (300B and 805), we are truly in business. This is when the LM805ia will be neck to neck with the M90P. Still, the M90P will have an edge in the bass department. It will give you a tighter, punchier bass.

Cost of tubes? Exceeding RM10,000.

Final Thoughts: Unexpected Excellence

The Mavis Labs M90P is a love letter to classic hi-fi design — and a wake-up call to anyone who underestimates what Vietnam's burgeoning audio scene can achieve. With its beautiful retro styling, refined sonic and no-nonsense engineering, this amp stands tall among much pricier contenders.

It's sweet, smooth, dynamic and just a little bit audacious, the kind of amplifier that makes you grin and say, "I'm loving it."

If ... the big if, the M90P is able to present sound with a bit more texture, it will be a no brainer. But as it is, the M90P is worth serious consideration, if you are looking for a tube amp in this price category.



Mavis Lab products are distributed in Singapore and Malaysia by Simplicity Control who are located in Singapore.

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Caveat

These impressions are drawn purely from my own listening experience rather than a formal review. They reflect how this component interacts with my particular system, room, and preferences. Take this as a personal snapshot, one listener's experience rather than a final word.

Naturally, I've considered its performance in light of its price and what it sets out to achieve.

Review Components

Speaker - Graham Audio LS 8/1

DAC - MSB Discrete + Pro USB & Pro ISL modules and Matrix Audio X Sabre Pro

Source - Lumin U1 Mini + LHY LPSU

Speaker cable - Inakustik Reference Micro Air LS-404

USB Cable - AA Audio SiG XT

Interconnect - AA Audio SiG XT XLR

Power - Frank Ultra Bank UB-15000Ws



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