Residential Systems, one of the leading home entertainment publications in the US, has reviewed our most powerful reference two channel amplifier – the 857. Technical Writer, Dennis Burger, begins the piece:  “I wish I could personally introduce you to Meridian Audio’s 857 Reference Two Channel Power Amplifier. Not only is it an outright beast of a Class AB machine, with more headroom than I can imagine anyone needing, but it’s also a gentle giant, delivering some of the most detailed and nuanced audio I’ve had the pleasure of hearing in quite some time.”

Does the 857 really live up to its Reference status? Dennis certainly thinks so: “Transparency was unimpeachable. Imaging and soundstage were revelatory. I ran my high-resolution warbles test on the amp and found that with a 96kHz signal, intermodulation distortion was inaudible, making it only the second amp I’ve tested this year suitable for high-resolution audio listening.”

To complete the review, Dennis sums up:

“Forget about fans, though. Forget about color changing status lights and swanky binding posts and bulletproof build quality (a few little knobs notwithstanding) because when you’re listening to the 857 Reference Two Channel Power Amplifier, none of that matters. What matters is that you’re probably as close to your music as you’re ever going to get, live performance aside. And what matters for you, the integrator, is that this is probably one amp that you can just install and forget. I’m having trouble imagining what it would take to push it to its limits.”

Read the full review [**here**](https://www.residentialsystems.com/technology/reviewing-meridian-audios-857-reference-two-channel-power-amplifier).