

find any fault at all, it is the low excitement level of the entire thing. All the fal de ral about what led up to this record has put undue pressure on the man and his music. Somehow this time Bob perseveres because of his music. For, with all the muted, mellow, essence of this work, it manages to be simply the most musical he has ever done. His early records were simply folk and part of the definition of what is folk music: "its got to be somewhat crude." Dylan has passed through sophisto-crude to a well-conceived, relaxed, unhyped personal music. Even if you were to consider his style a hype (and I assure you it's not), the style has mellowed too. (It's unobtrusive time in Woodstock.) Best of all, along with a more sensual Dylan we get a bonus in a yet more poetic, more sensitive, and more sensual Dylan all at once. No longer the Boy Troubadour prancing with consciousness and causes! Now the man-traveler who sings like one who experiences rather than observes. Like one who feels his lyric is his gut, not just his head.

I don't know if you should listen to me. I even liked **Self-portrait** and will defend its appearance in its time to anyone. Now with **Blood on the Tracks** we do hear a new Bob Dylan who has developed more mature eccentricities. The final product listens comfortably. The performance and sound is very relaxed and a few cuts almost disappear into easy listening. The standouts are *Tangled up in Blue*, *Simple Twist of Fate*, *You're a Big Girl Now*, and *Lily, Rosemary and the Jack of Hearts*. The production and Phil Ramone's engineering are excellent. I would like to be more intense about it all but **Blood on the Tracks** itself runs counter to the "All About Dylan, With Daggers and Hip Boots" Syndrome. Listen to it and you'll probably enjoy it. The sound is clear, strong and intelligible. The backing is sparse but very musical. All in all a job well done. Welcome back, Bob Dylan. I hope that the **Blood on the Tracks** is a foundation for more from you of this quality.

Performance: A Sound: A+

Miles of Aisles: Joni Mitchell and the L.A. Express
Asylum AB-202

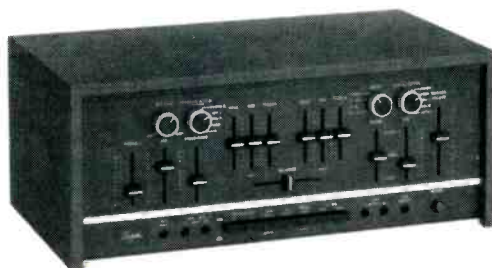
This is a truly superb record album by a triumphant Ms. Mitchell, a vocal tour de force. It is one of the finest, if not the finest live albums ever made. A truly remarkable new Joni is heard here. Her delivery is so much assured and emphatic that it totally captivated

Bozak Electronic Units for Your Music System ... You'd Never Believe the Difference They Can Make

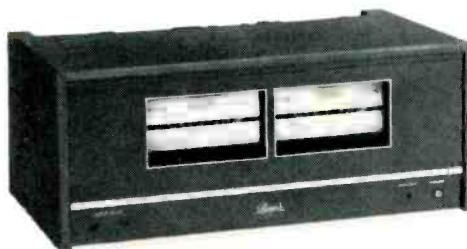
A Perfect Complement to Your Bozak Speakers!

Now the same standard which has kept Bozak in the forefront of quality loudspeaker manufacturers for more than a quarter century — designing to take full advantage of modern technology without overstepping the boundaries of science — has been incorporated into what we believe are the finest audio electronics on the market. They are intended to give a lifetime of pleasure.

MODEL 919 Audio Signal Processing Center



This new Bozak mixer/preamplifier gives your sound system a degree of capacity and flexibility approaching that of professional sound studios. You can mix and blend inputs from two stereophonic sources — phono with phono, tape or tuner — and a microphone, simultaneously. Complete cueing and monitoring facilities are provided; output modes include stereo, stereo blend, reverse stereo, stereo plus and monophonic.



MODEL 929 Audio Power Amplifier

Designed for use in major home music systems, the Model 929 is at its best when driving full-size speaker systems capable of accurately reproducing the full dynamic range of the Model 929 and of utilizing the power available from these magnificent amplifiers. For the ultimate sound system, Model 929 is equipped for simple plug-in conversion for bi-amplification use.

Power output from each of the 929's two channels is 150 watts continuous minimum sine wave power into 8 ohms from 20 to 20,000 Hz at less than 0.2% total harmonic distortion.

Our free booklet "Audio Electronics by Bozak" contains complete specifications.



Bozak, Inc.

Box 1166, Darien, Connecticut 06820 (203) 838-6521

Check No. 2 on Reader Service Card

me. She really must feel best in live surroundings, singing to and for people who can be seen, touched, and responded to. The way she lifts her voice assuredly through *Cold Blue Steel* and *Sweet Fire* shows just how much a singer she is. Her version of *Woodstock* is a masterpiece. Her band, The L.A. Express, plays a big role in making this cut a beauty and they manage to maintain their posture throughout the parts of the album where they have the experience of sharing the making of fine music with Joni Mitchell. Loud applause to Electra/Asylum and the Wally Heider remote recording unit for their role in making this fine music. Surely their presence affected the performance; the result is a totally positive enhancement and exhilaration to all in attendance. The recording leaves nothing to be desired. A little hiss at the start of *Cactus Tree* is forgivable, because the

good sound surrounds it, and because you can lose that electronic sound back in the shadows of the performance.

All 18 songs on the album are stunning. The sequencing and the tempo of the program make one want to listen straight through. Don't play this album just before an appointment; you'll probably be late. Armed with 18 winners, it's hard to choose the notables. But her new versions of songs like *Blue*, *You Turn Me On, I'm a Radio*, and *Circle Game* are my personal favorites. Two love songs, *Jericho*, and *Love or Money*, are most appealing of all to me.

Miles of Aisles will be around as a sterling stand-out recording for a long time. I have not heard a record that was so satisfying on first hearing for a long time.

The recording responds exquisitely to any form of quadrasonic synthe-

sizing (ambience) as well as real SQ or QS decoding. Its level allows for rich dynamic range. This recording is so clean and rich that only a half-track 15 ips tape could surpass it. Believe me, that is saying a lot for a commercial disc.

Joni Mitchell, the L.A. Express, and all the rest of the people involved in making *Miles of Aisles* did it right. All of it. Well, there is a cover art problem. The liner looks so blah that it's hard to find among a group of other albums and one is thus forced to keep it out in sight (where it belongs). But it still is ugly! Let's hope they brighten up the cover for the CD-4 version.

Sound: A Performance: A

Live: David Bowie
RCA CPL2, stereo, \$6.98.

Just as sure as there is good luck and bad luck, there will be records that deserve being listened to and there will also always be a David Bowie album! Or even worse! Well, indeed, here is a live David Bowie album. It is unique because it is the worst! Worse than a studio David Bowie album. Worse than anything! PHOOEY! The only thing that saves Bowie from being the worst here is the release of a new Mick Ronson al-



bum, *Play, Don't Worry* (he does neither). Thankfully either of these records will come in handy to dog-owning residents of Gotham City. If dipped in boiling water they can be shaped into useful utilitarian scoops, attached to sticks, and used to keep our city streets neat and safe for pedestrians. Thank heaven for civic-minded dog owners—without them the blokes with orange hair might starve to death!

Sound: Z- Performance: ZZ-



THE GNOME FILLS A VARIETY OF NEEDS!

ELECTRONICS, INC.

INTRODUCES

THE GNOME

MICRO-SYNTHESIZER KIT



#3740 GNOME KIT
\$48.95
plus shipping & insurance 4 lbs.

• TO THE SEASONED PERFORMER... It's the extra voice that completes a composition while leaving expensive equipment free for more demanding tasks.

• TO THE BEGINNER... It's a low cost introduction to synthesizers that won't be obsolete when more expensive instruments are purchased.

• TO THOSE IN BETWEEN... the GNOME's portability and ease of operation make it great for "toy boxes," sound effects or just for fun.

PAIA's FREE CATALOG... features the GNOME and other electronic music kits. Check our Reader Service Number or Write: PAIA Electronics, Dept. A, 1020 W. Wilshire Blvd., Okla. City, OK 73118

Check No. 14 on Reader Service Card

take advantage

Don't settle for just any professional power amplifier. Take advantage of the BOSE 1800.

Advantages like high power, ruggedness, reliability, serviceability, LED power indicators, and a full 5-year warranty.

The 1800 gives performers the advantage by providing them with all the power they need to handle the dynamics of their music.

BOSE 1800 pro power amp: designed to be taken advantage of.



BOSE 1800

Please send information on the BOSE 1800 to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

BOSE, The Mountain, Framingham MA 01701
(617) 879-7330 Dept. AP