





## **American Beauty**

## Celebrating 60 years of outstanding sound, McIntosh rereleases a classic

Walk around a typical big-box electronics store and almost every piece of merchandise you see will have been made in Asia. Not that there's anything wrong with that: Asia's the place to make things if you want them to be inexpensive, and we can see the appeal of a \$20 MP3 player as much as the next guy. But when you're ready to really invest in your sound system, go with a company that measures product life in decades, not months. Since 1949 McIntosh has been hand-making its products at its Binghamton, New York plant. And it shows—collectors routinely pay 10 times the original price for McIntosh amps from the 1960s and 1970s, which is why we're excited Big Mc is releasing a limited-edition remake of its classic MC75 tube amp in celebration of the company's 60th anniversary. Developed in 1961, before the advent of stereo, the MC75 is strictly mono (but for any serious setup you'll want paired mono amps anyway, along with a preamp to sync them up). McIntosh is selling 120 sets of two MC75s plus an anniversary edition of its C22 preamp for \$15,000 (mcintoshlabs.com). It's a damn sight more than you'll pay for a mass-produced solid-state stereo. Then again, when you consider it will probably work fine when McIntosh's 100th anniversary rolls around, it's actually a remarkable bargain.

## **Playing With Fire**



## **About Time**

We're not sure why watchmakers include hands anymore; in the age of the cell phone no one uses these things to tell time. Today watches are used to make a statement about your style and financial status. Ritmo Mundo's Entourage (ritmomundo.com) succeeds on the first front, but while it looks like a million bucks, it will set you back only \$750. Ritmo supplies the watches for HBO's show of the same name (note the star, a subtle nod to the *Entourage* logo).

