

# Contents

- 4 STAN'S SAFARI**  
Rummaging in his archives, Stan worries about the gulf developing between the old and new
- 7 EDITOR DOUBLE PLUS**  
An extended interview with long established Stereophile Editor John Atkinson
- 11 THE UPGRADEABLE SPEAKERS**  
Audiovector might be unique in offering loudspeaker upgrades. We check out the results
- 14 LETTER FROM SHENZHEN**  
Shenzhen resident Peter Comeau discusses the inscrutability of the Chinese
- 16 MAGNETS & FIELD COILS**  
The technology behind magnets and experiences of the field coil approach
- 19 PLUS CA CHANGE**  
Bowers & Wilkins' new 802 and 800 Diamonds might look like their predecessors, but the sound is all new
- 22 THE CD COLLECTOR**  
Early CDs have become very collectable, and for different reasons
- 24 ULTIMATE PHONO PRE-AMP?**  
How can £79,000 possibly be justified for a phono stage?
- 28 THE ULTIMATE STEP-UP?**  
The Ultimate phono stage naturally needs the ultimate step-up. Assessing Audio Note UK's ANS 9
- 29 ROCKING OUT**  
From behind the live performance mixing desk, Wayne Hyde explains how PA systems have evolved
- 33 SOPHIA THE THIRD**  
Martin Colloms assesses this third generation example of Wilson Audio's floorstander
- 38 SUB-£1000 CARTRIDGES**  
Chris Bryant tries five examples, from Audio Note, Audio Technica, Linn, Ortofon and Rega

- 43 FLEXIBLE VALVE CDP**  
Abbingdon Music Research's fascinating CD-777 is packed with features and valves



- 45 INTEGRATED CRESCENDO**  
The inexpensive amplification partner to Audio Analogue's fine CD player

*Integrated Crescendo on page 45*

- 47 THE ASYNCHRONOUS rDAC**  
Arcam's inexpensive rDAC shares asynchronicity with some very exotic components

- 48 HIGH CLASS BABY?**  
Spendor's baby SA1 has been getting plenty of attention, but how did Martin get on?

- 50 DC BLOCKING**  
So what's a DC blocker anyway? Martin Colloms tries out ISOL-8's Powerline Axis

- 51 OSIRIS ARISES**  
A second and more technical look at Rega's flagship amplifier

- 52 TINY BOX, BIG SOUND**  
Paul Messenger is suitably amazed by Bowers & Wilkins' sub-miniature MM-1 computer speaker

- 53 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL**  
Colin Anderson finds some interesting new classical discs

- 56 ROCK, POP & OTHER NICE MUSIC**  
Nigel Finn's regular collection of interesting recent releases

- 58 ROCK GENRES: WEST COAST MUSIC**  
Paul Darwin kicks off a new series on crucial albums from Rock's different genres

- 60 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS**  
A sceptic is converted to Vertex AQ's serious and costly high-end speaker cables



*Spendor's baby SA1 on page 48*