

Contents

- 4 **STAN'S SAFARI No45**
Stan looks at the appeal of loudspeakers with single full-range drive units, and admits he has a weak spot for an Eclipse



- 6 **NAIM ND555**
Martin Colloms tries out Naim's new top-of-the-line streamer/DAC, alongside colleagues Andrew Everard and Jon Honeyball

- 11 **WARSAW SHOW 2018**
Andrew Harrison has close ties to Poland, so his show report incorporates some unusual perspectives

- 14 **PASSING NOTES 6**
Julian Musgrave mulls over media, considers classic kit and starts getting to grips with his new listening space.

- 16 **LOUDSPEAKER PHASE, STRAIGHT AND TRUE**
Keith Howard examines the whole concept of phase response in loudspeakers

- 20 **KEF R5**
Martin Colloms assesses a new and well-priced floorstander from a famous name in loudspeakers

- 23 **THE YAMAHA NS-10 PHENOMENON**
Why do recording engineers still use this old monitor?

- 26 **LIFE-CHANGER AUDIO ICON 2**
Andrew Harrison checks out an exceptionally flexible transformer-based passive controller, with full remote control

- 28 **THORESS PHONO ENHANCER**
Kevin Fiske tries out an upmarket phono stage

- 30 **KIRMUSS KA-RC-1 RECORD CLEANER**
Andrew Harrison checks out the Kirmuss 'vinyl restoration' record cleaning system

- 32 **AUDIO ALCHEMY**
Chris Frankland investigates the mysterious world of the step-up device

- 36 **SONUS FABER SONETTO VIII**
Martin Colloms assesses a high power floorstanding loudspeaker from this well-established Italian brand

- 39 **PRO-JECT STREAM BOX S2 ULTRA**
According to Andrew Everard, this might be the perfect way to bring streaming capability to a DAC

- 40 **THE MOLYBDENUM ANODE 211 RE-BORN**
Kevin Fiske checks out a new/old valve from Audio Note (UK)

- 42 **FOUR CAPTIVATING CARTRIDGES**
Chris Bryant tries out cartridges from Audio-Technica, DP Audio, Linn and Rega

- 47 **IN PURSUIT OF THE SUPER-CLEANS – PART III**
Julian Musgrave explains to Ben Lilly why he did not trade in his active ATC speakers

- 50 **HIFICRITIC AWARDS**
Our Awards come in three forms: Audio Excellence, Recommended and Best Buys

- 52 **INDEX TO VOL 12 (2018)**

- 54 **JAZZ PICKS**
Greg Drygala highlights six more Jazz discs

- 56 **THE BEST OF CLASSICAL**
Colin Anderson picks several new Classical discs

- 58 **ROCK, POP AND OTHER NICE MUSIC**
Nigel Finn might have left the Chord Company, but hasn't lost his enthusiasm for today's music

- 60 **SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS**
Paul Messenger has Origin Live problems but loves the latest Quadraspire gear



Martin Colloms assesses the KEF R5 on page 20



Sonus Faber Sonetto VIII on page 36