

# Contents

---

## 2 EDITORIAL

Addressing some of the issues raised by our readers

## 4 'LIVE' – OR IS IT?

Recording engineer Tony Faulkner reveals how 'live' recordings are not always as 'live' as they pretend to be

## 6 THE DEATH OF DYNAMICS

Chris Binns explains why lifestyle and technology changes are sapping the dynamics from music recordings

## 9 CRITIC CRITIQUED

Tongue firmly in cheek, reader Julian Musgrave has some suggestions for HIFICRITIC (and the other hi-fi mags)

## 11 CABLE CONTROVERSIES (Part 3)

This issue Martin Colloms reviews interconnects, and looks at impedance matching and cable distortions



## 16 HARD DRIVING

Is the hard disk server the future for hi-fi? Malcolm Steward takes the plunge to find out

## 20 WILSON SYSTEM 8

The latest version of Wilson Audio's WATT/Puppy features the most radical revisions yet, as Martin Colloms explains



## 27 ROKSAN RADIUS 5/NIMA

Paul Messenger examines a very attractive yet surprisingly affordable vinyl spinner



## 29 REVISITING A CLASSIC

The full story of the BBC LS3/5a, up to and including its current Stirling V2 successor, described and evaluated by Martin Colloms



## 36 FOUR PHONO STAGES

Alvin Gold examines four serious quality phono stages, with full technical backup

## 44 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL

Christopher Breunig chooses the pick of recent classical releases

## 48 ROCK, POP AND OTHER NICE MUSIC

Nigel Finn searches his local record shop for good music from around the world

## 52 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS

Paul Messenger offers some new thoughts on Quad's remarkable electrostatic speaker