

# Contents

---

## 2 EDITORIAL

The World Wide Web has had a dramatic impact on the hi-fi marketplace, but is its influence benign or malign?

## 4 STAN'S SAFARI 4

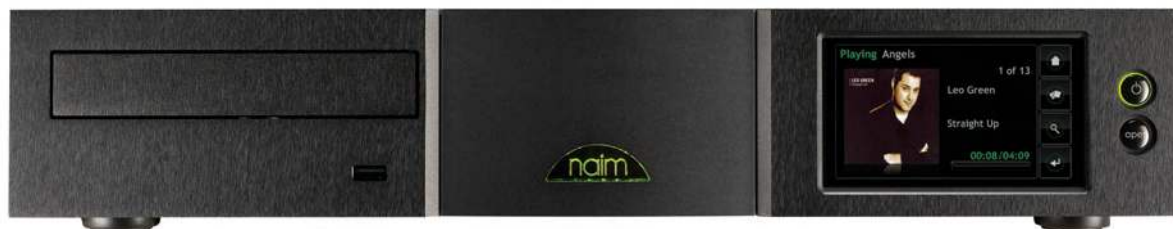
Navigating the Swamp of Amplification, Stan finds the path from valves to solid state, but does it lead to Nirvana?

## 8 HI-FI MYTHS: CROSSOVERS

Peter Thomas challenges the myth that simple crossovers are a good thing



*Creek OBH-15  
page 26*



*Naim HDX  
on page 10*

## 10 FOUR GO HDXing

Steward, Colloms, Honeyball and Wagner all describe their varying experiences with Naim's HDX audiophile hard drive

## 19 WILSON SOPHIA 2

Martin Colloms investigates Wilson's most cost-effective and UK-friendly floorstander



*AcousticRevive cables on page 24*

## 24 ACOUSTIC REVIVE

Martin Colloms checks out the cables from one of Japanese hi-fi's more idiosyncratic accessory companies

## 26 FOUR INEXPENSIVE PHONO STAGES

We looked at upmarket phono stages last year, so now Chris Bryant is searching for the jewels at the budget end of the market

## 33 FOUR QUALITY STAND-MOUNTS

Compact speakers from Focal, Guru, Opera and Sonus Faber assessed

## 45 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL

New classical releases from Bach to Schubert reviewed in depth by Christopher Breuning

## 48 ROCK, POP AND OTHER NICE MUSIC

Nigel Finn unearths another eclectic mixture of interesting new music

## 52 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS

Why have the large stand-mounts disappeared? PM discovers the PMC IB2