

# Contents

- 4 **STAN'S SAFARI 11**  
In which Stan explores the diverse jungle of loudspeaker technology
- 7 **IN THE BEGINNING WAS.....**  
The Voigt Domestic Corner Horn was arguably the first domestic hi-fi speaker. Paul Messenger tries out a pair
- 11 **HI-FI MYTH No8**  
PMC's Peter Thomas reveals how speaker designers use psychoacoustics to good effect
- 13 **CRITERION + COPPERHEAD**  
Martin Colloms examines a radical upmarket vinyl spinner from Australia
- 18 **LETTER FROM SHENZHEN**  
Peter Comeau watches China grow and likes its energy and enthusiasm
- 20 **SUBSTANTIAL SPENDOR**  
Martin Colloms puts Spendor's latest heavyweight A9 under the *HIFICRITIC* microscope
- 23 **IT'S THE SYSTEM, STUPID...**  
Steve Elford of Vertex AQ describes how he uses a complete system approach to evaluating hi-fi
- 28 **EUPHORIC UPHORIK?**  
How does Linn's new standalone phono stage stack up? Martin Colloms investigates



- 30 **THE FAT JERBIL**  
Paul Messenger gets to play with JBL's latest flagship speaker

- 33 **KRELL GOES ECO**  
Martin Colloms compares Krell's latest 'e-series' power amp with its predecessor
- 38 **CLASSY CANADA/CHINA COLLABORATION**  
Chris Bryant discovers an affordable Canadian-Chinese valve amp



*Krell goes Eco on page 33*



- 40 **CDX2 IS DEAD... LONG LIVE CDX2!**  
Naim's CDX2 CD player has undergone a major redesign; Martin Colloms assesses the results
- 43 **THE ART OF LOUDSPEAKER DESIGN**  
Tony Gee describes the subtle art of loudspeaker system design
- 46 **MINI MINORCA**  
Martin Colloms tries an unusual stand-mount from France's oldest speaker brand
- 48 **CLASSICAL ON PC**  
Arthur Barton searches for the best ways to rip, store and access classical CD and vinyl on a PC



*Substantial Spendor on page 20*

- 51 **DR STRANGEGLOW**  
Mike Blackmore describes his valve conversion, and outlines the thermionic alternatives
- 54 **THE BEST OF CLASSICAL**  
Colin Anderson finds some interesting new classical discs
- 57 **ROCK, POP & OTHER NICE MUSIC**  
Nigel Finn's regular collection of interesting recent releases
- 60 **SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS**  
The radical looking Magic Flute is much more than a pretty shape