

Contents

- 4 STAN'S SAFARI No 16**
Stan tiptoes with some trepidation into the murky jungle of hi-fi cables
- 7 LETTER FROM SHENZHEN**
Peter Comeau examines Chinese attitudes to Western brands and products
- 9 GAME-CHANGING DAC**
This radical Dutch DAC delivers excellent sound quality at a realistic price
- 12 "ANYBODY CAN MAKE A GOOD PROTOTYPE"**
When developing the *RubiKon* subchassis, Mark Holterman found the road from prototype to production littered with obstacles
- 15 ELECTROMOTION**
Does this MartinLogan hybrid provide the best of both worlds?
- 18 WHAT PRICE MAGNETS?**
Neodymium alloy was the loudspeaker magnetic material of choice, until China suddenly and dramatically increased the price
- 20 BUILD YOUR OWN NAS**
Malcolm Steward delves into the murky world of network assisted storage
- 24 RIPPING YARNS**
Mac-oriented Jason Kennedy explores the world of computer ripping software
- 25 A QUESTION OF BALANCE**
Stan Curtis examines the ins, outs, pluses and minuses of balanced mains operation
- 28 TRIPLE 'A' RATED?**
Martin Colloms checks out the Apollon Audio *Apache*, which looks remarkably good value for money



Game-changing DAC - page 9

- 30 GOOD VALUE VALVES?**
The Jolida name is currently controversial, but this new-to-the UK valve amp looks promising value
- 32 SMALL AND BEAUTIFUL**
AudioSmile takes a radical hybrid-active approach in adding bass to its sub-miniature *Kensai*
- 34 HERESY: THE BABY AND THE BATHWATER**
Absolute Sounds' Ricardo Franassovici casts a sceptical eye over computer audio
- 36 MSB PLATINUM SERIES IV**
MSB makes some of the best DACs around, but choosing the right combination of options can be tricky
- 43 NEW GURU**
This unusual little Swedish speaker has just undergone a Mk2 makeover
- 45 THE SUPRAVOX FIELD-COIL**
Chris Bryant tries out a simple full range driver with an electromagnet motor
- 48 SIX HEADPHONES**
For use at home and/or on the move, the *iPod* has made headphones fashionable again
- 50 THE VOICE OF VOXATIVE**
Ines Adler describes how she developed the Voxativ full range drive units
- 53 BITS & PIECES**
MC and PM provide short reports on several interesting new components
- 55 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL**
Colin Anderson selects some recent classical music releases
- 58 ROCK, POP & OTHER NICE MUSIC**
Nigel Finn picks half a dozen new rock & pop releases
- 60 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS**
Paul Messenger spends a fascinating day with the guys from Nordost



Electromotion from Martin-Logan on page 15



New guru on page 43