## Contents

4 STAN'S SAFARI No18

Stan looks at the difficulties of correlating measurement with subjective reactions

- **LITTLE DEVIL** The *Diablo*: a classy stand-mount from Focal's Utopia range
- 8 LETTER FROM SHENZHEN Peter Comeau looks at working and living conditions in China's electronics industry
- 10 TWENTY.24

6

Martin Colloms tries out one of PMC's new mid-price floorstanders

- 13 RIPPING YARNS Jason Kennedy unearths an interesting onebox Korean server
- 14 HIGH END 2012

Malcolm Steward reports back from Europe's biggest annual hi-fi show

16 ULTIMATE CD?

This Audio Note UK four-box CD player might be outrageously expensive, but is it also outrageously good?

20 ARCAM'S SUPERDAC

Arcam's new *FMJ D33* DAC evaluated by Rafael Todes

## 22 MID-FIELD MONITORING

Martin Colloms finds an inexpensive, high quality compact Pro monitor from KRK



24 BENCHMARK DAC Vertex AQ's upmarket *Aletheia dac-1* assessed by Paul Messenger

## 26 BERLIN CRAFTSMANSHIP

Stan Curtis spends time with Burmester's belt-drive 089 CD player

28 HOW WE HEAR

36

**40** 

45

The ears are the final frontier. Stuart McGill reports on recent research findings

**30 VOXATIV VOBISCUM** Field-coil driven and horn-loaded, the *Ampeggio Due* is probably ultimate single driver speaker

**34 RP6 vs RP3 – A REGA COMPARISON** How much better is the *RP6* than the *RP3*? Chris Bryant investigates

> **THE PMC STORY** Peter Thomas talks to Steve Harris about PMC's 20 year success story

**39 TWEAKING THE SONDEK PART 2** Paul Messenger checks out the unofficial Tiger Paw *Khan* top-plate upgrade

> **STREAMING MUSIC** Chris Bryant assesses Cyrus, Marantz and Pro-Ject music streamers

**ULTIMATE CONTROL** Is Townshend's *Allegri* control unit the bargain-of-the-decade?

46 ALACRITY CATERTHUN A convenient close-to-wall stand-mount

- 47 EVENT OPAL A top class Australian active Pro-monitor
- 51 LEAPING INTO COMPUTER AUDIO

Scott Berry describes his approach to high quality computer audio

- 53 BITS & PIECES Short reports on a component pot-pourri
- 55 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL Colin Anderson's latest classical picks
- 58 ROCK, POP AND OTHER NICE MUSIC

Nigel Finn chooses half a dozen new releases

## 60 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS

Computers can deliver the goods



Martin Colloms tries out one of PMC's new mid-price floorstanders on page 10



Martin Colloms finds an inexpensive, high quality compact Pro monitor from KRK on page 22