Contents

4 STAN'S SAFARI No19

The roots of hum, and how to avoid it

6 DNM HFTN

Short report on DNM's HFTN speaker cable terminators

7 RADICAL CHIC

Gradient's Helsinki takes a very unusual approach to both directivity and presentation

10 LETTER FROM SHENZHEN

How the Chinese economy is responding to global recession

12 NAÏVE NETWORKING

A computer sceptic tries getting to grips with network audio

15 RIPPING YARNS

Jason discusses the delights of a good GUI

16 EXCELLENCE IN MINIATURE

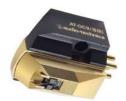
Magico's Q1 must surely be the most advanced and costly miniature speaker around

22 THE VALVE DAC

Every brand has a DAC these days, but one with valves is very unusual

24 SUPER-SLIM TONIC

An unusually fashionable and lounge-friendly speaker with some clever ideas





26 FOUR AFFORDABLE CARTRIDGES

Chris Bryant tries four mid-price movingcoils, from Audio-Technica, Dynavector, Ortofon and Zu Audio (nee Denon)

31 DISCRETELY CLASSY

What effect does Naim's new discrete component power supply regulator have on a *NAC552*?

32 TWEAKING THE TANNOYS

David King has found that simple changes substantially improved his Westminster Royals

34 MUSIC AND THE EAR

Examining the relationships between our hearing and music

37 WHITHER DIGITAL?

Meridian supremo Bob Stuart talks about the evolution of digital audio

40 ROCKING WITH UNITY

Rafael Todes tries a compact active speaker with Pro credentials

42 THRAX DIONYSOS

This Thrax pre-amplifier puts Bulgaria firmly on the high end hi-fi map

44 DAC FOR MAC?/UNPLUG'N'PLAY

A DAC to match a Mac mini, and the bonus of a battery supply option

47 SPHERICAL SEDUCTION

Does the $Planet\ L$ deliver substance as well as style?

48 VALVES GALORE

This MM/MC phono stage uses no fewer than 22 valves

50 BITS & PIECES

Short reviews on six accessories





52 JAZZ PICKS

Greg Drygala surveys the current jazz scene

55 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL

The latest classical picks from Colin Anderson

58 ROCK, POP AND OTHER NICE MUSIC

Nigel Finn chooses recent highlights

60 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS

Back to vinyl bliss



Rafael Todes tries this compact active speaker on page 40



Gradient's Helsinki on page 7

Chris Bryant tries four affordable cartrdges on page 26