

Contents

- 4 STAN'S SAFARI No41**
Stan Curtis examines the pluses and minuses of line source loudspeakers
- 6 HIGH LEVEL SPKRS/KH**
Keith Howard explores loudspeaker distortion at higher than usual test levels
- 10 PASSING NOTES**
Julian Musgrave's diary examines looks, watches someone else work, and finally fettle his widget
- 13 SILVER SOLIDS**
Martin Colloms gets to grips with some mail order interconnects from the US
- 14 SOMEWHERE ALONG THE TIMELINE**
Julian Ashbourn delivers a personal perspective on the development of recorded sound
- 16 THE REGENERATION GAME**
Will hi-fi ever win back today's music listeners? Andrew Everard reckons 'loud' matters more than 'quality'.
- 20 AKG N90Q**
Martin Colloms assesses a luxury headphone that comes with auto-calibration and noise cancellation
- 22 RUSSELL K RED 150**
To avoid any editorial bias, we asked Kevin Fiske to review Russell K's first floorstander
- 24 PHONO STAGES**
Harry Harrison checks out six phono stages, including models from iFi, Timestep, Graham Slee, Rothwell, Naim Audio and Audio Research
- 32 ACTIVE SPEAKERS**
Affordable active stand-mounts: the PreSonus Eris5 and the Yamaha MusicCast NX-N500, assessed by Martin Colloms
- 36 BOWERS & WILKINS 707 S2**
B&W's new 700-series has inherited technology from the flagship 800s. Chris Frankland tries out the entry-level 707 S2 stand-mount
- 38 PRACTICAL HIGH POWER TRIODES**
Robert Harris explores the world of triode amplifiers with 'useful' power outputs
- 40 AQVOX + BRAINWAVZ**
Martin Colloms investigates two accessories from German operation AqVox, and some inexpensive earphones from a US brand with a head office in Hong Kong
- 42 TUNED TO PERCEPTION**
Bob Pyle discusses the ins and outs of his personal sound perception
- 45 INAKUSTIK + LESSLOSS**
Kevin Fiske tries out some accessories – cables from Germany, and RF countermeasures from Lithuania
- 46 PIONEER N-70AE**
This versatile network player is a heavyweight high-end unit, as Andrew Everard discovers
- 48 HIFICRITIC ANNUAL AWARDS 2017**
Our retrospective awards come in three forms: Audio Excellence, Recommended and Best Buys
- 50 INDEX TO VOL11 (2017)**
- 52 FAVOURITE THINGS**
My nephew Vincent might live in Sweden, but crucially he is also a teenager, so brings a new perspective to his selection
- 54 JAZZ PICKS**
Greg Drygala selects six new and noteworthy jazz releases
- 56 THE BEST OF CLASSICAL**
Several recent classical releases reviewed by Colin Anderson
- 58 ROCK, POP & OTHER NICE MUSIC**
Nigel Finn presents his latest selection
- 60 SUBJECTIVE SOUNDS**
Time for a guest writer, so Harry Harrison takes over for this issue



AKG N90Q assessed by Martin Colloms on page 20



Bowers & Wilkins 707 S2 reviewed by Chris Frankland on page 36