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Marking his 70th birthday, and with more than 40 years in the hi-fi industry, the founder of Audio Note looks back – and forward. How does he think the industry has changed? 'Oh, definitely for the worse,' he says, but he sees a bright future, provided we're prepared to learn the lessons of the past, and stick to what we know best.

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Stan's taking a break from the minutiae of hi-fi design – he's been working on electronic systems to detect virus but has had time to think about the emotional connection between music and the way it's played. And it's not good news for those investing heavily in streaming systems!

10 CH PRECISION P1, L1, X1 AND A1.5

In this issue's feature review, Martin Colloms gets to grips with all-analogue audio electronics from Swiss manufacturer CH Precision, taking in a modular, expandable phono stage, which would eventually run to four boxes for a full, dual-mono set-up, and a pre/power amplifier built with a similar view to long-term system growth.

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It's the 'secret ingredient' of the latest generation of KEF's LS50 speakers, but what is it, how does it work, and could it be about to revolutionise speaker design?

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The latest high-end offerings from stablemates Denon and Marantz may initially appear to have similarities, but look closer at the Denon Anniversary 110 player and amplifier, and the new-look Marantz 30 Series, and it's clear differing design priorities are involved

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As the name suggests, this is a lighter version of the Canadian company's Sky speaker, but Chris Frankland finds its far from being a lightweight

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The latest addition to Spendor's Classic line is 'like a 3/5, but better,' says Ed Selley. But the story's not that simple: with its decidedly retro looks, this is a cohesive, refined design that's also a whole lot of fun

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This classic headphone design is its manufacturer's flagship open-back moving coil design, and has become established as a reference design thanks to its neutrality and accuracy. Keith Howard takes a long listen, and suggests a little tweak to improve it!

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'Never meet your heroes,' they say – but Jon Honeyball has always hankered after a pair of Stax 'earspeakers'. Now he has pair, and their partnering DAC/energiser, will it be a case of a dream finally coming true?

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Martin gets together a range of cables, both interconnect and loudspeaker, and puts them through their paces in a variety of systems. With brands including The Chord Company, Kimber Kable, QED, Townshend and Vertere, there's something here for every system, and at prices from just a few pounds per meter to 'How much???'

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Chris Kelly finds all the heavy lifting of setting up these substantial standmount speakers is worthwhile – they take a while to come on song, but finally reveal themselves to be really rather special

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