

# Contents

- 4 ROB LAWLEY**  
The boss of Sevenoaks Sound & Vision on the importance of customer service, selling £400k systems and steady expansion
- 8 STAN'S SAFARI**  
Stan Curtis understands the desire for a bargain, but says clone products from unknown brands aren't the way to get one
- 10 MAGICO A5**  
Having been impressed by the A3 speaker from the California manufacturer, Martin Colloms moves on to the larger A5 floorstander: it's demanding of the amp with which it's used, but also a total revelation
- 17 iFi Audio ZEN Stream**  
This slimline network player may look perfect for a desktop system – you can even stand it on end to save space – but its scintillating performance means it's destined for even greater things
- 21 VERTERE DG-1S**  
There's more to the new version of this entry-level record player from the British brand: a raft of performance enhancements ensure it sound better than ever, too, says reviewer Ed Selley
- 24 DSD REALITIES**  
Two decades on from the 'format war' with DVD-Audio, those measuring the DSD format in order to criticise it are still getting things completely wrong. Keith Howard puts the record straight
- 28 MISSION 770**  
The speaker responsible for the early success of its manufacturer has been revived: and Martin says that, while it stays true to the spirit of the original, the new version has moved the game on a long way
- 31 FiiO K9 PRO ESS**  
Forced into a chip-change by global circumstances, the Chinese manufacturer has managed to further improve its highly-appealing desktop DAC/headphone amplifier, making it even more of a bargain
- 34 NEAT PETITE CLASSIC**  
More than 30 years on from the superb original Neat Petite, this latest version sounds big, exciting and totally musical

- 37 CYRUS CLASSIC AMP**  
Cyrus may be going back to its roots with its latest arrival, but it has more than a hint of the performance of its pricier stablemates
- 40 MUSICAL FIDELITY MX-STREAM**  
This compact network transport can show a clean pair of heels to the idea of playing music from your computer
- 43 FOCAL UTOPIA**  
You'll have to look closely to see the changes in the latest version of the French company's flagship headphones, but the performance gains are more readily obvious
- 45 GRIMM AUDIO M1**  
Designed by a Dutch-based company with extensive studio audio experience, this network audio player has hidden abilities: as well as playing music exceptionally well, it can also be configured as a server, too
- 48 ACOUSTIC ENERGY AE500**  
It may be the smallest model in its range, but this compact monitor has a sound with depth, detail and sophistication
- 51 MELODY AN300B MAX**  
Built by an Australian company with its own factory in China, this beautifully finished valve integrated amplifier proves a major hit with Chris Frankland
- 54 ZORLOO ZOPHIA**  
Headphones offering both wired and wireless operation aren't new – but this one can handle ultra-hi-res music when cabled
- 54 BOWERS & WILKINS PX8**  
The latest headphone design from the British speaker company is wireless, has sophisticated noise-cancelling, and uses carbon drivers. There's even an '007 Edition'!
- 56 VINI REILLY**  
Mark Prendergast presents an overview of the creativity of the Durutti Column artist
- 58 MUSIC**  
Our pick of the best releases, from classical and jazz on DSD to secondhand buys
- 64 SOUNDSTAGE**  
Is Andrew Everard finally going into storage? Yes – and it's not proving cheap!



*Martin is captivated by the Magico A5 floorstander, p10*



*iFi Audio's slender ZEN Stream network player, p17*