

"The successful combination of tradition and modernity is a revelation for every hifi enthusiast..."



Magnat
MA 600



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Is it possible to combine two worlds?

One of an analog persuasion that is characterized by the soft glow of traditional tubes, and the other of a digital age that is characterized by bits? Yes it is. And better still, you can pay for it. This is where traditional tube technology meets modern high-tech. The MA 600 amplifier from Magnat combines the audio coordination of a tube amplifier, which is popular with many enthusiasts, with contemporary technology, as the MA 600 features digital connections in addition to the usual analog inputs.

Various sources can be connected via optical and analog digital inputs, and the USB port enables HD audio sources to be processed at sample rates up to 192 kHz with a 24 bit resolution. Anyone wanting to do away with cables can transmit data from a smartphone, tablet or PC via Bluetooth 4.0 and the aptX standard.

On the other hand, Magnat hasn't forgotten about the ever increasing number of vinyl fans either, as it has incorporated a phono amplifier complete with MM pickups. So much for the bare facts.

Connoisseurs of tube material will feel their heart rate increase when they hear that the romantic glow behind the circular window is generated by an ECC 88 tube. Not only that, it has also been pre-selected and carefully burned-in for 60 hours, meaning it can be used to its full potential immediately after being switched on for the first time. If you were arrogant, you may only splash out on the unit as a headphone amplifier, but that's something we're not.

Instead we use the two 70 watt amplifiers and connect a couple of shelf speakers and elegant column speakers; and that's it, our system is complete. There's really no need for anything else. Okay, owners of silver discs could indulge in the corresponding CD player. In this case that would be the MCD 850, which can also be used to play SACDs.

But, as previously stated, you are fully equipped with just the MA 600. The various digital inputs open up the world of bits, bytes and HD formats, while things are somewhat more trivial when it comes to playing music via Bluetooth. However, at least you also have the chance to enjoy the maximum possible sound here thanks to the aptX standard.

The technological package that combines the various worlds has been packaged into a timeless, minimalist exterior that affords an unobstructed view of the romantic glimmering of the ECC 88 tube. Both the front panel and control elements are made of aluminum, which is something that definitely isn't taken for granted today. The minimalist look does not impair operation in any way. After all, there are two buttons for input selection and a volume knob; you simply don't need anything else for everyday use.

The supplied infrared remote control features direct selection buttons for all sources, as well as options for adjusting the bass, treble and balance, if you really need them. What else is worth noting? There is a proper power switch, i.e. a switch that actually disconnects the device from the power supply, as well as speaker terminals that can accommodate generously dimensioned cables.

The successful combination of tradition and modernity is a revelation for every hifi enthusiast and, when it comes to connectivity, the reasonably priced MA 600 makes many other more expensive components look simply old fashioned.

