



"High-quality hybrid integrated amplifier with a pleasantly round sound and modern features"

**Magnat**  
MA 600



- + VERY PLEASANT, HARMONIOUS SOUND WITH A SLIGHTLY WARM ELEMENT
- + AUTHENTIC SPATIAL REPRESENTATION
- + VERY GOOD FINISH INSIDE AND OUT
- + USB-DAC WORKS NATIVELY UP TO 192 KHZ/24 BIT
- + BLUETOOTH 4.0 PLUS APTX ON BOARD
- + FAIR PRICE



**Magnat**

Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 · 50259 Pulheim · Germany · [www.magnat.de](http://www.magnat.de)

AREADVD  
07 | 2015

# Magnat MA 600

Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 · 50259 Pulheim · Germany · [www.magnat.de](http://www.magnat.de)



For a price of €600, Magnat offers the MA 600 stereo amplifier, a combination of a tube pre-amplifier for a warm, pleasant sound and a transistor power amp for generous power reserves. The tube amplifier is extremely low-noise, promises the manufacturer. It is equipped with an ECC 88 tube that was preselected and already run at full output for 60 operating hours. High signal stability is guaranteed through particularly high-quality tube sockets. Up to 192 kHz/24 bit is supported via the digital inputs - optical, coaxial and USB. Precisely functioning TI/Burr Brown D/A converters have been fitted. The USB-DAC really does work natively - we checked it out with 192 kHz/24 bit. That's excellent for this price category! Bluetooth 4.0 including apt-X is also included in the very extensive, modern range of features of this simply elegant device. The brushed 5 mm thick aluminum front emphasizes the purchase of a high-quality component.

The controls meet the same standard, also made of high-quality metal. The MA 600 also features a phono preamp with an MM input. This hybrid integrated amplifier is therefore also ideal for traditionalists. The enclosure is made entirely of solid metal, with an efficient power amplifier chip located inside for each channel. Sine-wave output power of 70 watts into 4 ohms is generated, which is perfectly fine for the price category. Paper is also known to be patient and only the test series reveal the delight of the levels that really are available. The power adaptor is generously dimensioned, promises Magnat, with separately stabilized voltages for the individual circuits and the large toroidal-core transformer ensuring a stable power supply. Large-capacity screening electrolytic capacitors intercept brief current peaks in an optimum manner. For standby mode, Magnat has installed a separate power supply to ensure low standby power consumption.

What about connectivity options? We have already looked at the various digital connection options and the phono jack above. There is a good range of connection possibilities, enhanced by cinch connections for CD, Tuner, Aux and Tape (in and out). High-quality terminals are provided to connect the loudspeakers, although two pairs of speakers (A/B) cannot be connected - there is only room for one.

## Sound

We start with Diana Krall's "I Can't Tell You Why" from the album "Wallflower Deluxe" (FLAC 48 kHz/24 bit). And the pleasant warmth of the tube can be discerned and heard from the very first second. Precisely with this kind of music, the sound offered by the MA 600 is exceedingly pleasant, round and full. We use - sorry, Magnat, but we only wanted to demonstrate that the MA 600 also sounds very good on high-quality speakers from other manufacturers - the brand-new Nubert nuVero 70 as a loudspeaker. And this combination is a very good match.

The version of "Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word" we listened to here also comes from the "Wallflower Deluxe" album by Diana Krall. And the MA 600 also provides a great deal of pleasure in this case. The hybrid integrated amplifier performs harmoniously, with spatially deep reproduction. You can also listen to it over a long period of time without any difficulty - it never gets unpleasant. It stands out through its acoustic "feel-good flavor", especially at levels somewhat over room volume, and is a very harmonious, subtle companion for living rooms up to a good 25 square meters.

"Diamante" by Sandra & Tony Alessi is played at 96 kHz/24 bit. "Italian romanticism encounters reproduction finesse from Pulheim", is how the result could be described in one sentence.

Although the MA 600 is not the quickest, it is one of the most pleasant integrated amplifiers we have heard for a long time. The playback never gets tinny, shrill or aggressive - the amplifier always presents the vocals in a skillful and pleasant manner. The instruments are represented with very good resolution.

We also take real pleasure in listening to the first allegro of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, Opus 218. The movement is available as a FLAC 96/24 file and demonstrates to us in a sustained manner that a tube in the preamp section really can offer real benefits for lovers of classical music. Although the strings could do with a bit more brilliance in the solos, the overall orchestral harmony is extremely high. The build-up of the movement is rendered in an acoustically clear and clean manner for the most part. The spatial representation is excellent. An authentic virtual space is created that is convincing in terms of both breadth and depth. The differentiation and graduation within the orchestra is also rendered correctly. An outstanding performance for the price category, without question.

Johann Sebastian Bach also composed world-famous violin concertos, like the first, Opus 1041. In this case, we also listen to the first movement, an allegro. The MA 600 highlights the smaller dynamic differences excellently, with big jumps in dynamics realized well, though the speed could be somewhat higher here. We have already made precisely this acoustic observation elsewhere. However, the build-up of the orchestra was once again excellent, with the realistic spatial representation also a specialty of the MA 600. Precisely in this discipline, as well as with regard to the high overall acoustic harmony, we find Magnat's contribution particularly convincing.

"Basil" from Mark Knopfler in FLAC 192 kHz/24 bit is expressed in fine detail right from the start. Mark's voice frees itself from the loudspeakers very well; the sound is slightly warm and therefore typical of a tube in the preamp stage. The MA 600 builds up the melancholic piece in a credible way, with the acoustic guitar coming across with clearly defined contours. The bass is nice and round, powerful and well graduated. For HiRes audio, the Magnat MA 600 is probably one of the cheapest alternatives that can properly highlight the benefits of high-resolution files.

This is made quite clear with "Mighty Man", again in 192 kHz/24 bit and again from Mark Knopfler. The partly delicate, musically interesting beginning is rendered in a detailed way and with surprisingly high overall resolution. Once again, the soundscape benefits from the genuine spatial representation and the warm element. No strenuous, analytically narrow acoustics; the focus here, rather, is on really getting into the music. You simply get a warm feeling when the MA 600 reproduces the music.

Even when viewed in very sober terms, it still cuts a very good figure. It goes about its work clearly and precisely, and does not "warp" anything. In our view, the slightly warm element by no means interferes too much with the interpretation but is, rather, precisely suited to long-lasting audio pleasure.

We then play back via Bluetooth - the connection is established in 30 seconds and is extremely stable - and start here with "Love In Portofino" by Andrea Bocelli.

The slightly warm, pleasant tone can also be discerned here immediately. Andrea's voice is charismatic and, at the same time, clearly separated from the instruments. The bass exudes serenity but is nevertheless not simply voluminous and round but, rather, also fairly precise. The strings are reproduced fantastically, and again we note the complete absence of any aggressive element in the acoustics.

"Over The Limit" by Calippo & Fort Arkansas from the current Kontor Top Of The Clubs 2015.03 is very different. The Club track with the full bass is reproduced excellently by the MA 600. It renders the bass very well, providing great volume as well as excellent depth. The electronic effects are expressed in a multi-faceted way, with the MA 600 capturing the change in rhythm at all times and conveying a sure, cultivated, though emphatic impression. "Dance with Me" by Felix Jaehn feat. Thalie Ann Seeyen is also rendered very well in the Calvo remix. Precise and spatially dense - only in terms of maximum possible emphasis is there something lacking. The MA 600 is too tentative in some places in this respect. But that's better than excessive input resulting in an unbalanced soundscape. Here, too, the MA 600 goes about its work with a pleasantly rounded sound.

## Conclusion

With the MA 600, Magnat has succeeded in producing a veritable hybrid integrated amplifier that is well equipped with a high-quality finish on the outside and elaborately designed inside. The features are also worthy of praise with virtually no exceptions. This particularly concerns the USB-DAC, which can process up to 192 kHz/24 bit natively. This is something most of the USB-DACs of the considerably more expensive competitors cannot yet master. The Magnat MA 600 also stands out through the warm, round and pleasant sound it produces. The level stability is good. The resolution over the entire frequency range and the depth in the bass range are excellent.

