

# stereoplay

www.stereoplay.de

"A hybrid package that is unrivaled. The finely tuned symbiosis of power and sensitivity stimulates involvement. HiRes-DAC, Bluetooth, Phono MM and the headphone socket also offer a varied range of source options."

## Magnat MA 600

stereoplay  
Highlight

07/2015



Sound: Top class

Price/performance: excellent



# Magnat

Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 · 50259 Pulheim · Germany · www.magnat.de

stereoplay  
07 | 2015

Anyone daring to look will see a glowing red luminous tube. However, anyone believing that a tube can produce this "hellfire" itself is definitely on the wrong track. Magnat illuminates the glass bulb with a red LED for staging purposes. With the MA 600, Magnat is addressing both the young vintage fan as well as the music listener with a digitally-based media collection. Behind the "porthole", there is also an ECC88 preamp tube, which has already undergone 60 hours of burn-in time when the unit is purchased: a service from the Pulheim-based company that should not be underestimated!

### Hybrid enclosure

Nor can anything sobering be expected from the other characteristics of the analog section. The generously dimensioned toroidal transformer with its separately stabilized voltages and the high-quality Reed relays for switching over the inputs certainly do not impede the sound experience. On account of the MA 600 being a hybrid concept, a chip amplifies the pre-glowed signal for each power amp channel, also to guarantee the maximum possible bandwidth. The maximum possible depth was no doubt sought when making the solid aluminum front panel, being all of 1.4 cm thick. Different enclosures, different strategies: While the power supply unit was moved out to prevent electromagnetic interference on the digital circuits, the assemblies are positioned far away from each other in the Magnat's generous "sheet metal compartment".

### Digital nest

The digital board with its Burr-Brown converter supports sampling rates up to 192 kHz/24 Bit and, without exception, on USB, coaxial and Toslink. Those who like wireless streaming via a tablet or smartphone will be delighted with the aptx-compatible Bluetooth 4.0 input. This allows the transmission of music data up to a maximum of 1 Mbit, which is virtually CD quality (1.04 Mbit).

### Operation

The beauty of DAC integrated amplifiers is their operation. Not only can all the menu items be reached on the front via a push-button control, all of the inputs, including the digital ones, can be switched over simply via remote control. This is not a given for many standalone DAC's. Bases, trebles, balance and a volume preset for the respective input channel up to a maximum of 6 dB can be set in the menu. This is especially practical for the fundamental volume differences of image-generating media (Blu-ray and television) compared with purely audio media like CDs and vinyl discs. Finally, the direct button for an unprocessed source signal is reached only via remote control.

### Preheated and ready

Those familiar with hybrid designs expect a symbiosis of two worlds: the tonal variety and heat of a triode, combined with the power of a transistor. This is teamwork that has, after all, been used successfully for many years in the instrument amplifier sector, where richly colored sound with a great deal of character is equally as important as strong performance.

### Let's play!

It is clear right from the beginning of "It's a Man's World" (from the stereoplay CD Perfect Timing, Vol. 1) what the direction is: Inga Rumpf's natural and physical voice is at the center of things – and not so much the somewhat more discreet bass compared with Onkyo. Waiting for the listener on track 3 are then meaty, bulky cymbals and fine, crispy hi-hats. The Magnat fills the entire room with amazing sound and all that it comprises. None of the competitors manage such nuanced and richly colored reproduction. On track 4, the Magnat conveys the piano more lightly, with the striking of the keys also sounding less like being wrapped in cotton wool. The Magnat's pièce de résistance comes on track 5. The MA 600 weaves a web of dense atmosphere from the dirty, hovering blues of Henrik Freischlader. This hybrid sound experience is of such a fine musical nature that it simply gets under your skin.

### Frequency responses

Wide band, stable on all loads and balanced, also with Phono MM and digital sources.

### Distortion analysis

Exemplary proportional enhancement with nearly perfect gradation.

### stereoplay compatibility program

High performance level, very stable even on critical speakers.

