

"This is a well-balanced,  
fully-equipped package (...)"

**stereoplay  
Highlight**

**Edition 08/14**

**Magnat  
MCD 1050**



- + A **STEREOPLAY HIGHLIGHT**
- + Price/performance: **OUTSTANDING**
- + Sound: **ABSOLUTELY TOP CLASS**
- + Overall rating: **VERY GOOD**

**Magnat**

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



video

8 | 2014

# Magnat MCD 1050

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Seeing such a small, yet clear and round organic LED display with a white font against a black background is a rare thing; well, at least I haven't seen anything quite like it. Magnat's elegant MCD 1050 greets us with a friendly "Warm up" message after it has been switched on. The unit, which is equipped with two type 6922 tubes, is not only assured of an elegant appearance by this round display window, but also by its two double triodes, which are also accommodated behind round "show windows". The friendly glow of the two tubes, however, seems to have been given a slight boost; LEDs are probably used inside the unit to produce the heart-warming "camp fire" appearance underneath the tubes. We can forgive Magnat this little trick, however, especially when we plug in the RCA cables. These are accommodated by two sturdy, gold-plated high-end connectors, which have been implanted in the solid housing.

Naturally, there's something much more important behind the relatively thick front panel of Magnat's unit, such as the "Pure CD" drive. This has been accommodated in its own sub-enclosure, which ensures less noise and enhanced shielding. The unit also houses fine converter chips by Burr Brown, which are fortunately not only operable via the drive mechanism, but also via standard existing digital inputs. Kudos to the manufacturer here, as a USB input, which is hugely important nowadays, is located immediately adjacent to the coaxial and optical digital inputs. The D/A converter used by the unit also supports 24 bit/192 kHz playback via USB. If used with a Windows machine, a USB driver will need to be downloaded from Magnat's website; Macs, on the other hand, can be used without having to install any additional software.

## Upsampling can be switched off

A not unimportant function can be found tucked away on the metal remote control:

The mode for upsampling to 24/192, which is otherwise known as the default mode of operation for the unit and affects both the CD function as well as operation via the digital inputs, can be switched off.

Our tip: Sound comparisons between upsampled tracks and the original 16 bit/44 kHz sound do not always come out in favour of the

fashionable upsampling function... You should, however, enjoy "real" HD music via USB without prejudice. Magnat's developers have entrusted the power supply, which is all important for the tubes, to an R-core power transformer, while the other sections of the unit are powered by a compact switching power supply. Electronic voltage regulators cater for the supply of the two 6922 (ECC88) tubes from Electro-Harmonix with heating and anode voltage. The tube section of the MCD 1050 is intricately designed and is a far cry from the "me too" output stages that crop up every now and then. This is exemplified by the powerful foil coupling capacitors, which are highly regarded polypropylene models from WIMA. Incidentally, the two tubes have also been pre-selected and burned in for 60 hours, which means customers can be assured of purchasing an extremely high quality unit

## Always full of verve

A unit that has been properly warmed-up generates a crystal clear performance. Magnat's unit is unfamiliar with dynamic defects; it continuously produces a performance that is full of verve and it delivers a powerful bass line without ever detracting from the presence of the treble range. You've just got to like this

rather crystal clear and certainly not "cuddly" coordination. It does, however, also guarantee an airy, extremely transparent and spatial representation, which majestically provides the acoustic environment with a sophisticated presence. The "tube character" shines through in this setup and ensures a lively and rather harmonious sound despite all the analytical cleanliness.

## Our conclusion:

**This is a well-balanced, fully-equipped package.**

## Evaluation

An amply and meaningfully equipped CD player plus D/A converter with an analytical, yet subtle and extremely dynamic sound: A complete package that is also suitable for use with a PC.

## Test verdict:

Sound: **ABSOLUTELY TOP CLASS**

Overall rating: **VERY GOOD**

Price/performance: **OUTSTANDING**

