

"BEST OF BOTH WORLDS"

Magnat



HiFi Test TV-HIFI	UPPER CLASS	Note
	PRICE/PERFORMANCE *1	
	OUTSTANDING	1,1

Quantum Edelstein

HiFi Test TV-HIFI	TOP CLASS	Note
	PRICE/PERFORMANCE *1	
	VERY GOOD	1,0

MA 1000

HiFi Test TV-HIFI	TOP CLASS	Note
	PRICE/PERFORMANCE *1	
	VERY GOOD	1,1

MCD 1050



Magnat

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Magnat, the speaker specialist from Pulheim, is presenting the flagship models in its hybrid series in the shape of the MA 1000 and MCD 1050. We put the integrated amplifier and CD player to the test with the Quantum Edelstein compact speakers.

Magnat's mastermind, Shandro Fischer, has a soft spot for tube units. It was therefore hardly a surprise when he reintroduced this type of device to the Audiovox range a few years ago. The first surprise success was Magnat's RV1 thoroughbred amplifier, which stood out in our tests thanks to its outstanding sound. Other similar amplifiers followed. So-called hybrid models, which only utilise tubes in the pre-amp stage, have since also found their way back into Magnat's portfolio. The two brand new MA 1000 and MCD 1050 hybrid devices are available from specialist retailers for €1,700 *² each. For this amount of money you will be getting your hands on some extremely high quality components, which are pleasantly discreet yet exude a very elegant appearance with their sturdy, solid metal housing and 8 mm thick aluminium front panels. The amplifier and CD player radiate an enormous amount of elegance during operation thanks to their gently glowing tubes.

Magnat MA 1000

The two small round windows at the front of the unit provide a glimpse of the two channel-separated ECC82 double triodes used by the tube preamp, which have been sourced from Russia and burned in for 60 hours. The tubes are accommodated in sturdy sockets with gold-plated contacts. In terms of connectivity the MA 1000 features four high-level inputs at the rear with an additional 3.5 mm audio input at the front for portable devices. Fans of vinyl will be pleased to hear there are separate MM and MC input jacks, which allow two turntables or two different pickup systems to be connected simultaneously. The input jacks on the hybrid amplifier can also be used for cassette decks or tape recorders, with the corresponding Rec Out output exhibiting a fixed level. The level of the pre-amplifier out (Pre Out), however, depends on the setting of the speaker controller. Toshiba power transistors, complete with a channel-separated power supply and the finest ring transformers, enable the high output of 2 x 129 watts at 4 ohms in the discrete power amplifier. Stable Alps potentiometers, low-loss audio capacitors from Wima and filter capacitors with a 40,000 F capacitance rating coax the last reserves of sound from the amplifier.

The high quality solid metal remote control can be used to operate all of the functions of the MA 1000 amplifier and the MCD 1050 CD player.

Magnat MCD 1050

As is the case for the MA 1000 amp, the developers have also put their trust in Russian-made tubes for the CD player. Selected and pre-aged ECC88 double triodes have been used for the channel-separated tube output stage. A separate mains adapter, which keeps power consumption to a minimum in standby mode, is also supplied. Burr-Brown digital/analogue converters process the signals delivered with 24 bit accuracy. The remote control can be used to adjust the volume of the 6.3 mm headphone jack at the front of the unit. The crystal clear informative display, which is centrally located behind a round window, features an "organic LED" that enables it to be read clearly from a good distance. Things get really exciting when you take a look at the rear of the MCD 1050 CD player. In addition to the analogue and digital outputs (RCA, coaxial and optical) there are also a number of digital inputs. External devices can use the integrated digital/analogue converter of the CD player via the optical and coaxial connections. The USB port enables a computer to be connected to the MCD 1050. The necessary drivers can be downloaded from Magnat's website.

Quantum Edelstein

Magnat used this year's IFA exhibition to present its new Quantum Edelstein compact speakers. These proved to be a real show-stopper on account of their formidable appearance. The bass reflex shelf speakers, which consist of high gloss MDF, are adorned with solid aluminium front panels and double base plates comprising aluminium and acrylic glass. Two state-of-the-art drivers, low-loss crossover components and high quality wiring provide the necessary foundation for the excellent sound generated by the Edelstein units. The 25 mm silk dome tweeter is accommodated in a mechanically coupled configuration behind the aluminium front panel with recessed sound guide. The extremely rigid aluminium/ceramic sandwich cone used for the bass-midrange driver features high internal damping. Smart: the flow-optimised die-cast aluminium basket of the 110 mm driver is supported on the bracing inside the housing. This minimises the natural resonance generated by the chassis.

Sound

Magnat's elegant combination creates a good atmosphere in our listening room. The compact Quantum Edelstein units operate in a very lively, yet sophisticated manner and they chalk up some excellent scores thanks to their outstanding coordination. Anyone positioning the speakers freely in the room will benefit from their extremely good spatial imaging quality. One disadvantage in doing this is that the low frequency range is somewhat diluted, however, this can be countered by placing the speakers closer to the rear wall. This further enhances the bass and fundamental range, which is of particular benefit for male vocals in terms of volume and power. The MA 1000 amplifier and the MCD 1050 CD player score highly with their mature, compelling sound pattern, which is characterised by a fascinating blend of power and heat combined with vibrancy and sensitivity. The small Quantum Edelstein speakers keep the electronic components under perfect control thanks to their excellent power reserves and good lab results. When combined with large, reference class floorstanding speakers, the hybrid units really come into their own. Perfectly controlled jet black bass lines are a treat to our ears. Spatial imaging is truly outstanding, while musicians and instruments are reproduced extremely precisely and appear as if carved in stone.

Laboratory

Magnat's products stand out in our test lab with very good results. The MA 1000 amplifier delivers 2 x 87 watts at 8 ohms and 2 x 129 watts at 4 ohms. The phono frequency response of the amplifier and the linearity of the converter in the CD player are very good. The Quantum Edelstein units are impressive with their slightly rising frequency response and optimum dispersion properties.

Conclusion

Magnat's elegant combination impresses with its premium workmanship and excellent musicality. The small Quantum Edelstein speakers proved to be the surprise package in our test, as they deliver a wonderfully vivid sound pattern despite their small size; the only thing lacking is a slight degree of emphasis in the bass range.