



POWERHOUSE

Magnat

RV 3



The RV 3 doesn't hide its ambitions: it's all about power and energy.



Magnat

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

Hifi Test
Edition 6 | 2013

Magnat RV 3

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



All good things are

Magnat has developed three impressive generations of integrated amplifier - the latest definitely breaks with tradition and relies entirely on an extraordinary design and out-and-out high performance.

Magnat's methods when it comes to amplifier construction appear to be coherent. From the edgy and classic RV 1, to the more modern-looking RV 2, right up to the very outlandish RV 3: the evolution of the amplifier's interior is certainly in keeping with the design of its exterior. While the RV 1 is a full tube amplifier in which the phono section is designed as a tube circuit, the RV 2 incorporates an MM/MC-compatible phono section with a tube amplifier that is capable of a considerably higher performance than that of the RV 1. The RV 3, on the other hand, takes things much further back in terms of its tubes - the preamp section only features two Russian-made ECC82 double triodes in an SRPP circuit. These are measured by way of a 60-hour burn-in period, after which they are selected in pairs. The tubes are located at the front of the amplifier, which is particularly striking with its cooling fin "wings".



An ECC82 goes about its work behind a protective grille.

Underneath are channel-separated, discrete output stages with excellent Toshiba power transistors, which naturally generate a lot of heat at a rated output of 200 watts per channel - ergo the large cooling fins; after all, you want to show what you've got. In between are the huge mains transformer and

the encapsulated filter capacitors of the power supply unit. The circuitry inside the sturdy amplifier has been constructed very neatly. All functional units are clearly separated from each other - even the power supplies have been designed separately - thereby ensuring that they have little or no disruptive influence on each other. There have not been any cutbacks either with regard to the components used:



Winged: The curved heat sinks provide the RV 3 with a unique appearance. The connections leave nothing to be desired.

The quality present is of a consistently high level. This is also reflected in all of the measurements, which enable us to attest to the RV 3's squeaky clean design. In addition, all of the performance data specified by Magnat was surpassed in our tests.

Very little has changed with regard to the operating elements: the solid metal, chrome-plated volume knob has been taken over from its predecessor as well as its basic remote operability. The RV 3's remote control can now also be used, however, to switch the channel in addition to controlling the volume. A small LCD display in the front panel provides information about the amp's operating status and the selected channel.

Now to the sound. Have you got speakers that behave somewhat capriciously and leave you feeling that they do what they want with your amplifier? Then plug in the RV 3 and batten down the hatches: Magnat's unit will definitely put your speakers to the test! First of all, the powerful amplifier ensures excellent dynamic reserves - even when it's operated at a very high volume you always feel that it's capable of that bit extra. Its performance is gripping, lively and full-bodied and the sound produced by the tubes in the preamplifier section is always extremely good. On the other hand, it

also has a knack for the finer things in life - it reproduces minor dynamic nuances that other amplifiers simply omit because, to put it crudely, they are still having to fight with the speakers.

Not the RV 3: It is capable of dishing out powerful beats in the deepest bass range while simultaneously reproducing subtle nuances in the upper frequencies in a thoroughly compelling manner - and the best part is that, as the listener, you won't have any trouble following these two sound events (and many others besides). It goes without saying that such a device is also capable of producing a convincing spatial sound pattern. It's so impressive to hear time and time again how much detail and spatial information is actually incorporated in a good classical recording; this all helps in creating visions of a concert hall in your mind's eye.

I admit that I am one of those people who think the design of the RV 3 will take a little getting used to and am basically a fan of the full tube amplifier.

Just what the new Magnat unit is capable of in terms of musicality with its inexhaustible power reserves is worthy of praise: it's beyond comparison.

