

HOT POTATO!

Magnat RV 3

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Highlight
Magnat RV 3



- Rich and powerful sound
- Neutral balance
- High resolution



Magnat

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The new RV3 is the extraordinary amplifier concept to be launched by Magnat that skillfully combines the benefits of two methods of transformation. AV-Magazin took a closer look at the innovative solution that the audio specialists in Pulheim have presented.

Magnat has given itself and its customers a special gift. The occasion is the 40th anniversary that the company is currently celebrating at its headquarters in Pulheim in the Rhine region. The ground for this project was already laid and nurtured many years ago. And as the successor to several highly innovative amplifier models, the newly launched RV 3 constitutes the high point to date. The intention during development was to create an amplifier that combines the individual benefits of two analogue methods of transformation in a single device. The power amplifier possesses a transistor amplifier while the preamplifier has been equipped with two valves. The aim was to combine these two great-sounding analogue methods with each other to satisfy even the most demanding of music connoisseurs. The designers additionally wanted the amplifier to be so efficient that it would also drive weak and low-ohm loudspeakers without complaint. Magnat spared neither cost nor effort to achieve these goals. And so the result is the RV 3 for which a recommended price of 2700 euros is being asked. AV-Magazin intends to find out how good the hybrid integrated amplifier really is in the test below.

Design and operation

Magnat's RV 3 already conveys a feeling of extreme high quality at the first tangible contact. And the solid metal casing weighs heavy in the hands with a weight of just on 20 kilograms. Not without reason. For a low-resonance chassis provides the optimum home to the high-quality components. The amplifier, which is available in black, also possesses an eight-millimetre thick front panel on which a centrally positioned volume control is located that uses an ALPS precision motor potentiometer and therefore enables sensitive volume settings. The input signal switch employs high-quality reed relays and is located to the right of this control. This means that the RV 3 scored points with rapid switching times during the practical test. Visual feedback is provided through a porthole window behind which an organic liquid crystal display is located. This displays the selected signal source in lettering that shimmers in blue and turquoise. The amplifier is controlled and sources are switched either using the front control or the included remote control. Like the RV 3, the

remote control has been fashioned from metal and allows users to comfortably and remotely control volume, mute and source selection.

The open and so independent design of the RV 3 is emphasised by its symmetrical configuration. Here, the two large heat sinks are a welcome change in the design monotony that dominates the hi-fi market. Purchasers of Magnat's RV 3 will not only be buying an amplifier but also an ornamental item of furniture that is guaranteed to attract attention.

Technology

Power is transformed by a strong power amplifier, which is able to deliver an output of 200 watts of sine power per channel at four ohms. Magnat used high-quality power transistors by Toshiba to achieve this signal amplification.

The discretely configured power amplifier also possesses an elaborately manufactured mains adapter with separately stabilised voltages for the individual circuits. The people in Pulheim also equipped the RV 3 with several highly capacitive capacitors in order to prevent conversion fluctuations even during continuous use. The ring-core transformer, which is responsible for the effective increase in the power of the supplied mains electricity, has been housed in an airtight casing on a vibration-free bearing in order to ensure the best possible transformation of signals.

Largely dimensioned heat sinks that stretch across the entire depth of the casing are located on the top right and left side of the amplifier. The generously dimensioned ventilation space means that the RV 3 therefore removes heat very efficiently. This in turn means that the components used are able to operate within their parameters with a consistent quality of sound – even at high outputs.

The sound-relevant preamplifier works through two low-noise amplifiers equipped with a pair of ECC 82 valves. These have been sourced from tried-and-tested Russian production and are preselected before they are fitted in order to ensure the best-possible channel equality. The subsequent 60 hours of burning in also guarantees optimum sound quality from the first moment of use at home. As the icing on the cake, Magnat has equipped the RV 3 with low-loss WIMA audio capacitors and high-quality valve bases with gold-plated contacts to optimise device-internal signal processing.

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Sound quality

As described above, Magnat's RV 3 is supplied with burned-in valves. The analogue glass tu-

bes need a few hours of operation before they develop their full sound potential. This means that the valves also need to warm up in everyday use in order to ensure standard-compliant signal transformation. Pressing the power button will initiate the warming-up process for the glass cylinders, which is visually indicated by a status bar in the display. The RV 3 is then ready to play. Oehlbach's silver-plated Bi Tech 4B cable was used in this test in order to ensure the optimum transmission of signals to the loudspeakers.

The RV 3 already impressed with a clearly defined and tonally perfectly coordinated sound from the first minutes of play. But the hybrid amplifier stole the show when it played back jazz pieces by "The Bassface Swing Trio" at an extremely high resolution that cleanly separated out every detail from the sound. Thanks to the powerful mains-adapter transformer and lavish number of capacitors, the coarse and fine dynamics are also extraordinarily good. This means that even filigree plucked contrabass strings are transferred into the listening space with perfectly dosed pressure.

Rich bass lines in modern electronic music are conveyed just as playfully as the gentle harp sounds of classical baroque music. And where spatiality is concerned, the RV 3 is also able to create an authentic virtual stage in which all the instruments take up their usual place in the stereo panorama so that the jazz ensemble appeared to be playing directly in front of us in the listening space. In our sound test, the RV 3 was able to perfectly combine the rich and warm sound character of the valve preamplifier with the powerful acceleration of a transistor power amplifier. All of which puts the fun back in listening to music!

Clear text

With its RV 3 hybrid amplifier, Magnat has impressively demonstrated how to combine the virtues of valve and transistor technology in a single device. The skilled technical symbiosis produces first-class quality of sound characterised by the potent development of power, high resolution capacities and authentic spatiality.

