

# AN EYE-CATCHER

## Magnat RV 3



Magnat's RV 3 is a splendid specimen of an integrated amplifier with a striking, but unobtrusive design, which is predestined to be the heart of even the most complex system.



# Magnat

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

hifi&records  
Edition 4 | 2013

# Magnat RV 3

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

## An eye-catcher

High-end enthusiasts tend to be happy to categorise equipment. To them, everything that is produced in series quantities tends to make them suspicious, as it does not satisfy their claim to supposed exclusivity. Fortunately, there are also many music lovers who couldn't care less about such issues and instead will search for a component that is suitable for their requirements. When it comes to an integrated amplifier these people should definitely consider Magnat's RV 3; this is an amplifier which defies any kind of categorisation thanks to its wonderfully combined features and it is a device that could lay claim to a certain unique selling point, but is prevented from doing so by its price. This starts with the housing, which is far removed from the usual "box" design and provides a glimpse of the various functional components. The two tubes of the pre-amplifier section are accommodated prominently on the flat, rectangular base of the housing in solid protective cages; behind these are the two generously dimensioned circular enclosures for the capacitors and the power transformer; these are flanked on both sides by the large heat sinks, which span the entire depth of the housing. These clearly demonstrate that there is quite a bit of heat to dissipate as a result of the high output: They do get rather warm, so require an adequate space for installation. On the front panel is the power switch and operating display, which simply indicates that the amplifier is on or off. There is no standby mode. This isn't a bad thing, however, as the RV 3 is "fully prepped" after a short period. The dominant volume knob, which is positioned at the centre of the unit, is flanked on either side by the balance controller and input selector. To the right is a window which initially indicates the startup time and then switches to the currently selected input when the amplifier is up and running. Simply class. An infrared eye for the remote control and a headphone jack round off the front of the unit.

At the rear there is a well-equipped terminal area with duplicate speaker jacks for a bi-wiring configuration. This is a clever

solution that you should use, or at least try, because an audible gain is usually the reward. The adjacent pair of RCA jacks provides a pre-amp signal that can be used to drive a second amplifier or a subwoofer. The next two pairs of jacks offer a complete recording loop, which, unfortunately today is no longer commonplace, but often proves to be very useful. Three additional inputs are suitable for connecting common components such as a tuner or CD player. The last two jacks plus a ground terminal are a pleasant surprise, as these allude to the full-blown phono stage, which is capable of processing the signals from both moving-magnet and moving-coil pickups. There is so much on offer here, which is extremely positive!

**A preliminary conclusion: Everything seems to be included here that makes an integrated amplifier complete and qualifies it as the centrepiece of a fine system for playing music. Its workmanship is impeccable and you can expect a long, trouble-free lifespan. The developers have certainly not scrimped on the material used as evidenced by the considerable weight of the unit, which is around twenty kilogrammes. It's also beautiful: The remote control is a solid metal part that is used for the source selection, mute and volume up/down functions. This makes it suitable for all high-fidelity requirements. Now, you may well already be considering setting up this amplifier in a prominent position and not "squeezed" into a shelving unit. If not, we definitely recommend you ensure sufficient "breathing space" on the connection side, especially when you bear in mind the weight of the unit.**

... Back to Magnat's RV 3 and its sound characteristics. A lack of power is definitely not an issue for this unit, which is hardly surprising when considering its output is more than 250 watts at four ohms. A finely detailed, dynamic development and a spatial distribution that enables a firm location of individual artists are of a very high level. The same can be said of the punchy and powerful performance in the bass range, where the amount of detail is extremely captivating. Our overall impression can

be figuratively described as "fine mental control over well-trained muscles" - and this is just referring to the combination of tubes in the preamp section and the transistor technology in the power section. Listening to music with Magnat's RV 3 is quite simply a lot of fun. And this assessment is not bound to any specific musical genre; it is equally at home with heavy country rock tracks as it is with tracks by singers/songwriters and music by the two Labeque sisters.

The phono section of the RV 3 is the icing on the cake. This is not necessarily a component that is offered by an integrated amplifier of this level - it is an option that is often omitted from the very outset. Magnat has really gone to town on this amplifier and its endeavours are manifested outwardly in the shape of the separate inputs for the two different types of pickup. This means you can connect two pickups, which is a compelling argument for the analogue enthusiast.

... Wonderfully supple and without the slightest trace of harsh elements, it forms the sound pattern with a precise and firm location of instruments and artists. This ensures sharpness and dynamics never fall by the wayside. The only thing left is for me to pay a very big compliment to the phono section of Magnat's RV 3. Anyone left wanting more will definitely need to delve deeply into their pockets for an external phono amp.

**CONCLUSION: Magnat's RV 3 is a splendid specimen of an integrated amplifier with a striking, but unobtrusive design, which is predestined to be the heart of even the most complex system. This is all the more true when you consider the recording option as well as the high quality phono stage. Whether you refer to this unit as the finest high-fidelity or high-end amp is irrelevant. The clear recommendation for Magnat's 3 RV is underpinned by its excellent sound/price ratio.**