



**MAGAZIN FÜR ANALOGES HiFi & VINYL-KULTUR**

# Magnet RV2



**"Test result:  
A continuous development: A bit  
better equipped, a bit more  
powerful and even more musical:  
The beautiful black RV 2 truly is  
worthy of following in the footsteps  
of its wonderful predecessor."**

# Magnat<sub>RV2</sub>

"The second chapter

Three years ago we were left applauding a successful debut: The first tube amplifier from Magnat, a rather innocuous manufacturer in the field at the time. The next chapter is now unfolding with a visually and technically enhanced model

The successor has logically been designated the RV-2 - plain and simple - like the concept that it has fundamentally adopted from its predecessor. Simply speaking this means: A pair of double triodes for the input and phase inverter, then a quartet of pentodes in a push-pull configuration for power amplification. However, a number of modifications and improvements have been made to the finer points. A change has been made in the power amplifier from the standard EL34 pentodes to 6550 pentodes - which enhances the performance of the RV-2 significantly on paper. There has also been a major alteration to the phono stage, which is no longer operated via tube technology, but as a semiconductor circuit. This means there is now an MC input, which won't trouble anyone. The biggest and most obvious change, however, has been made to the appearance of the amplifier - whether the RV-1's designers no longer liked it or whether an attempt has been made to make it a bit more "stylish" is beyond my knowledge. At the time I was very fond of the RV-1's retro design - particularly because its designers had opted for an enclosed housing. In this respect, the RV-2 has taken a step backwards to a conventional "console design" favoured by most tube amps. A poll among colleagues produced a clear result: The black RV-2 and its distinctively offset chrome control elements is clearly more popular. The prominent volume knob at the centre of the front panel also has something about it: With its turbine design, it reminds me of the great American road cruiser, whose tail fins knew no limits and chrome dominated everywhere. But let's take a step back from the road and into the listening room: The RV-2 is undoubtedly more potent in terms of technology. True to the old school: Two ECC83s in the input stage and two ECC82s in the driver stage provide the 6550s with enough power to generate 50 watts per channel for speakers with four and eight ohms nominal impedance alike. This is also a respectable result for a push-pull amplifier, but it doesn't give the Magnat unit carte blanche for operating any speaker. In practice, however, the RV-2 worked without any ifs and buts, at least with all of the speakers we used. Technical measurements also produce a thoroughly clean image - the Magnat unit is a match for its transistor colleagues, especially in terms of its low distortion properties. And this also applies to its sound: It is somewhat more vigorous and lively

than its immediate predecessor, which particularly impressed us with its strict degree of neutrality. But the RV-2 goes its own way here; it is characterised by a fuller-bodied sound, provides vocals with a little more oomph and gives stringed instruments a special shimmer. Just to put things in perspective: The Magnat unit is by no means a machine which is concerned solely about sound performance - it also generates a significant degree of power and vigour. It also has good manners - it neither generates a bass line that is too potent or over-emphasises trebles. Balance and discipline prevail everywhere, even when the RV-2 really gets down to things. In terms of sound the Magnat unit fits nicely between the very clean and disciplined transistor amplifiers and the single-ended tube amplifiers, which we have tested in parallel in this issue. The former generates a somewhat earthier performance, however it must concede a narrow defeat in terms of absolute precision - a very narrow defeat. Compared to the single-ended candidates on other hand, it is almost a marvel of neutrality. When compared directly it is clearer, more level-headed and also more precise. A compromise? If you like: I would rather call it an ideal combination of everyday practicality with tube flair. But I can imagine a lot of people viewing the rich sound of the Magnat RV-2 as being deep within the realms of classic tube amps, while appreciating a complete configuration with a phono stage, as well as the unit's ability to be combined with almost all speakers."



The connections should always be sufficient under normal conditions. Commendable: There is an output for a recorder. The speaker terminals with typical 4 and 8 ohm connections are very solid.