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Magnat[®] RV 2

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Highlight

"Clear lines and purist features characterize the Magnat RV 2."



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Magnat RV 2

Test result: very good

Magnat RV 2



Sound quality	outstanding
Laboratory	good
Handling	very good
Final grade	very good

“Valves to meditate on

An idea that arises when you hear Magnat's brand-new RV 2 integrated amplifier. The amplifier, which weighs over 20 kilograms, costs around 2,500 euros, which in view of the performance it delivers must be regarded as cheap.

The RV 2's solid appearance is initially dominated by the high-quality metal case whose front panel is almost one centimetre thick. The input-selection and volume controls are made from aluminium. The most attractive part of the amplifier is located under a protective screen: The valve section. According to Shandro Fischer, CEO Product & Marketing, the decision in favour of valves was not a result of nostalgia (see interview) but was rather based on an attitude towards the quality of sound and the open route towards producing sound quality that exists at Magnat.

Perfectly shaped

There's nothing random about this amplifier. Rather it quickly demonstrates that the developer team was steeped in quality-of-sound know-how. The valves have been sourced from Russia and "burnt-in" over several hours to ensure that their electrical parameters only change slightly during operation; they have been fitted in low-resonance sockets. Two large 6550 valves have been used in each channel for the end amplification. They generate up to 50 watts of performance at both eight as well as four ohms. There are no surprises with the preamp part which, just like its predecessor, the RV 1, has been equipped with ECC 83 valves. The mains adapter has also been designed with great care because much sound potential may be gained – or lost – here.

The RV 2 transformer also possesses several secondary coils that serve to supply individual circuits separately. This design helps prevent instable voltages as far as possible and to block the build-up of addition effects between the different supply circuits. Negative "current domino effects" are therefore no longer possible.

The connector panel on the rear also bears no surprises. Besides high-level inputs, this Magnat amplifier also comes with a phono input which provides separate cinches for MM and MC systems. Friends of music rendered from analogue signals will also be pleased to hear that SAC mastermind, Walter Fuchs, also contributed to the design of this phono-preamp.

The one minus pole for each channel is complemented by two plus poles. Which is also not unusual because more current is required by a four-ohm loudspeaker and more voltage by an eight-ohm one. A glance at the loudspeaker will therefore reveal the correct pole to use.

Simple handling

The RV 2's volume may be adjusted either directly on the amplifier using the precision potentiometer or by using the massive remote control that has only this one task to execute (along with the mute function). Sources may be selected using the quality control dial on the front of the device.

An LED provides information about the integrated amplifier's current operating status; it flashes orange while the valves are heating up after the unit has been switched on and then switches to green as soon as the loudspeaker outputs have been activated. This LED also communicates any errors that may arise during operation.

Sounds from the world of the Magnat RV 2

Beware, this amplifier possesses an engaging manner. Its style of amplification is quite attractive – a property that cannot be entirely explained by the quality of reproduction. With the first title, "The Snake And The Moon" by Dead Can Dance, which the i-fidelity.net testers listened to on this amplifier, it was rather the telling of the story and the related emotions that were projected into the centre of their attention. The amplifier was able to open an in many cases shut door. And featured no softening whatsoever. The percussion sequences were finely rendered without any levelling at all. The overall consideration of the sound action revealed that the RV 2 did not show any preference towards a single instrument or singing voice. Nothing was missed in the rendition and everything ranged within the spectrum.

Magnat's amplifier demonstrated its capacity for rhythm and timing with Pat Metheny and Charlie Haden on the "Beyond the Missouri Sky" album. "The Moon Song" was deemed highly suitable for this task, and while in

other equipment configurations single instruments frequently perform by themselves and so lose the big picture, the RV 2 succeeded in conveying the internal coherence without appearing in any way contrived. It was particularly in the more unusual sections that the listeners caught themselves bathing unabashedly in the music.

This character of sound came even more to the fore when a record player was used as the source. There was nothing but the music then. For instance, Miles Davis' trumpet on "Kind of Blue" didn't sound like it had been preserved as a document of history but sounded just the way it should do for today's listeners. One thing is clear: Some competitors charge entirely different prices for the properties that the Magnat RV 2 demonstrated in the i-fidelity.net listening room.

It appears that the musician and singer, Jack Johnson, wrote a large part of his repertoire just for Magnat-type amplifiers. How else can the authentic rendering of "Never Know" be explained? The guitar guides the melody, the drums roll with precision without losing any of their crispness, which is sometimes an issue with valve amplifiers. The energy that the RV 2 displayed was also surprising: The music was still comfortable and a pleasure to listen to even when volumes were pushed beyond normal room levels.

The Magnat RV 2 is primarily an excellent sounding integrated amplifier. The way it treats music is extremely attractive – and can't be entirely expressed by the term quality of sound. It is a special experience the way it renders music from both digital and analogue sources. And the price tag of 2,500 euros may actually be regarded as a bargain. Although this would make the Magnat RV 2 a hot candidate for the i-fidelity.net "price tip", this was not enough for us for the far-reaching capacity of this amp – it is just a genuine "highlight" amplifier!"



Everything else is just technical diletantism: In contrast to the one or other valve amp available on the market, Magnat's RV 2 possesses a clean design throughout. Such a respectable amplifier of this type will give its users listening pleasure for years to come.



Classical two-channel machine: Magnat's RV 2 was equipped with sensible features, it was very carefully made and delivers energy to its listeners at more than one level of listening.



The terminals are able to handle either cable shoes or banana plugs. The lowest value that the loudspeaker performs at determines whether the eight-ohm plus-pole loudspeaker connection has to be used. Additional contact pressure and thus lower contact resistance may be achieved by tightening the union nuts more firmly.