

Floating Boards

Better decoupling is hardly possible: five powerful magnets literally hold the glass platforms of EsseCi Design from Italy suspended in mid air. The platforms do not use absorbers, spikes or similar aids to decouple the equipment from the ground and its vibrations. Thanks to the permanent magnets, the stable board made of hardened glass has no physical contact with the surface. It carries devices weighing up to 30 kilos and can be optimally aligned horizontally by rotating the magnet housing using the level gauge. The manufacturer dismisses fears that the strong magnetic field could impair the electronics, in particular the pickup systems, as the magnetic field works exclusively in the vertical direction, i.e. past the side of the device, and the negligible residual magnetism is completely shielded by the magnet's housing. The bases are manufactured entirely in Italy and are available in two sizes: as Audio Relaxa 530 with around



52 x 46 cm for 1200 Euro and as Audio Relaxa 622 with 49 x 40 cm for 1100 Euro. From January, the larger record will even be available with a load capacity of up to 50 kilos: as the Audio Relaxa 750 for an estimated 1500 euros.

www.essecidesign.it/

BluOS streams classical music

The multiroom streaming platform BluOS, which is implemented in products from Bluesound, NAD and DALI, integrates access to the classical music streaming service Idagio via firmware update. The update to version 3.6



▶ IDAGIO

will be rolled out in mid-October. Idagio offers over two million pieces of classical music, including exclusive recordings, as well as playlists curated by renowned experts – everything in lossless CD quality (FLAC 16

bit / 44 kHz). For owners of a Bluesound „Vault“ or the digital music player NAD M50.2, also the usage possibilities for MQA-coded CDs are extended. In the future, these discs can not only be decoded during CD playback, but also copied to the player and stored, while retaining all the advantages of the MQA standard.

<https://www.bluesound.com/>

Smart Speaker with Mic Drop

Specialist for digital radio Pure has come up with a special design for its smart speaker „DiscovR“: the upper compartment with the microphones and the two tweeters can be lowered by gentle pressure into the lower part which holds the downfire subwoofer. Thus the microphones for Alexa are not only shut off but physically disconnected. It also makes the loudspeaker smaller and therefore easier to transport, which is especially useful due to the integrated batteries. Even when the top section is open, the microphones can be muted at the touch of a button. Additional buttons can be used to preset and recall frequently used Alexa voice commands, for example for smart home control, as well as radio stations or playlists. By tapping the „Music Discovery“ button, a song heard on the radio is identified and directly added to a Spotify playlist. The DiscovR supports the Alexa system via WLAN, Spotify Connect and Airplay 2, and outside the WLAN range it receives music from a smartphone via Bluetooth or analog via the Aux input. The battery should last 15 hours and is charged via USB-C with Fast Charge. DiscovR is now available in silver or graphite for 300 Euro in the Pure Online Store.



<https://www.pure.com/uk>

Redline-cable from Vertere

Its inner conductor consists of 6 silver-plated copper wires with different cross-sections, 2 thin and 4 thick. A seventh, tin-plated and thicker copper wire carries the mass. A foil and a braid ensure optimum shielding. The cables are assembled with Cinch, DIN or XLR plugs and as speaker cables with banana plugs or cable lugs. All plugs have gold-plated contacts. The Redline series also includes tonearm cables, USB cables and mains cables with cold appliance couplers or Schuko plugs. The prices are 700 Euro for an interconnect cable with one meter length or a 3 meter loudspeaker cable pair. Every half meter of additional length costs 160 Euro. The mains cable is available for 720 Euro.

<https://vertereacoustics.com/>



B&W updates Bluetooth headphones

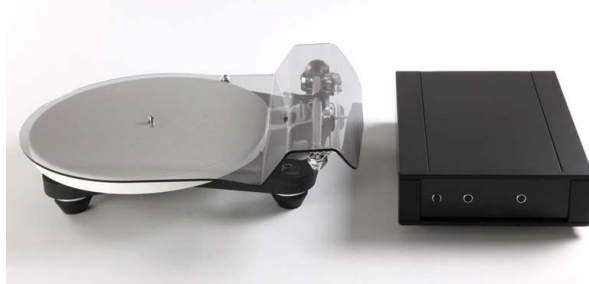
The Bowers & Wilkins PX7 is their new 400-euro over-ear flagship. Additionally B&W now offers the PX5 on-ear model for 300 euros. Both headphones receive Bluetooth signals with aptX HD and are equipped with individually adjustable, active noise cancelling. When an ear pad is lifted or the entire headset is placed around the neck, music playback stops automatically. The PX7, which weighs 302 grams, uses carbon fiber components and metal as well as genuine leather. The On-ear model is even lighter at 254 grams. The battery



life of the top model is 30 hours, slightly longer than that of the PX5 (25 hours). Both are available in „Space Grey“, the PX5 additionally in blue and the PX7 in silver. Also new from B&W: two wireless in-ears with silicone neckband and magnetic earplugs: The PI3 (200 Euro) and – available next year – the PI4 with adaptive active noise cancelling. <https://www.bowerswilkins.com/>

All new Rega Planar 10

Compared to its predecessor RP 10, Rega has developed the new „Planar 10“ from scratch – but has of course remained true to its principles. This includes constructing the chassis as lightly as possible. The Planar 10 consists of



a PU foam core embedded on both sides in a high-pressure laminated hard fabric. Its mass has thus been reduced by 30 percent compared to the RP 10. Also new is the precise vertical bearing of the tonearm. The ceramic platter rests on an aluminum sub-platter whose hardened steel axle runs in a special brass socket. It is driven by a low-vibration 24-volt synchronous motor which is fed from an external power supply unit with electronic speed switching and speed fine adjustment. Complete with cover, the Planar 10 costs around 4800 Euro or with the MC pickup Apheta 3 around 6000 Euro. It is expected to be available from December. <http://www.rega.co.uk/>

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CANTON
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Affordable speakers from **Triangle**



The French loudspeaker specialist Triangle has launched a new series of low-cost loudspeakers consisting of two standmount and three floorstanding models as well as a centre. All „Borea“ models are equipped with a silk dome tweeter, which is mounted slightly recessed in a horn-shaped cavity and equipped with an acoustic lens for wider dispersion. The mid-range is handled by a 16cm paper cone driver, while the bass is handled by equally 16cm fibre glass drivers. Inside, the cabinets are stiffened and damped with a composite of MDF panels and foam. The 1.10 metre high flagship BR 09 (pair price 1200 Euro) has a frequency response down to 35 Hertz thanks to three bass drivers. The two standmount speakers are two-way systems for 400 Euro per pair (BR 03) and 320 Euro/pair (BR 02) respectively. Triangle also recommends the latter as surround speakers in 5.1 systems.

<https://www.trianglehifi.com/en/>

Sound United cancels **Onkyo-Deal**

Surprising news from California: Sound United, the parent company of Denon, Marantz and other brands, announces that the takeover negotiations with Onkyo have been cancelled. In May 2019, the two companies had agreed, albeit subject to certain conditions, upon Sound United purchasing the consumer audio division of Onkyo



ONKYO

Corporation, which includes Pioneer's audio-video division. Now it was announced in most diplomatic language: that „both companies have agreed that it is in the best interest of both sides to

terminate the planned acquisition.“ One can only speculate about the reasons - possibly the antitrust hurdles were too high. After all, a conglomerate of Denon, Marantz, Onkyo and Pioneer would have dominated the market, especially in the AV-receiver sector. Sound United is now striving for „organic growth with the existing brands“ and „sensible acquisition,“ according to the press release.

<https://www.soundunited.com/>



Dual CS 505-4 Final Edition

The CS 505-4 turntable is now available in a limited „Final Edition“ of 150 pieces in the „Zebrano Nightfall“ design. It is manufactured in St. Georgen in the Black Forest and costs 800 euros. „Final Edition“ is a very fitting name, as the model will be discontinued afterwards.

<https://www.dual-plattenspieler.eu/home.html>

Marantz creates the Streaming-Amp

With the PM7000N, Marantz is building a golden bridge for die-hard analog fans into the streaming age. It is a classic integrated amplifier with a network player that can be switched off. For 1200 Euro the device offers all ingredients of a typical Marantz amplifier: HDMA circuit, toroidal transformer, phono-MM preamplifier, 3 line inputs,



a power amplifier with 2x 60 Watt at 8 Ohm and high-quality loudspeaker terminals made of solid brass with thick nickel plating. In addition, there are one coaxial and two optical digital inputs as well as a USB-A port for external storage units. Marantz has, further, for the first time integrated a streaming module into an integrated amplifier. Thanks to HEOS Built-in it can access Amazon Music (HD), Spotify, Tidal, Deezer and local music libraries – of course in HiRes up to 24 Bit/192 kHz (PCM) and 5.6 MHz (DSD). WLAN, Airplay 2 and Bluetooth are also on board. So that the digital modules cannot cause any interference signals in pure analog mode, they are not only completely shielded, but can also be switched off individually or as a whole in „Pure Mode“. The PM7000N is operated via the included remote control, via the HEOS app or via Alexa, Google Assistant or Siri voice commands. It will be on the market in mid-November.

<http://www.na.marantz.com/us>