

2022 ANNUAL EDITION

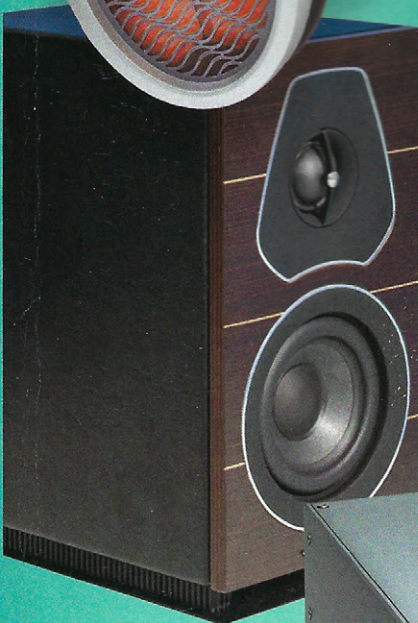
the absolute sound



700+ REVIEWS



2022 HIGH-END AUDIO BUYER'S GUIDE



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DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 31, 2022

25>



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\$8.99US/\$10.99CAN

Rogue Audio Sphinx V3

\$1495 (\$1595 with remote control)

Rogue products have, like their moniker, usually gone their own way in design, price, and value.

The Sphinx integrated amplifier may be the most roguish of the lot. Tubes? 100Wpc (200W into 4 ohms)? U.S. design and manufacture? For \$1495? If that's not enough, this is the first Class D amplifier (actually a hybrid with a pair of 12AU7 tubes in the preamp section) that offers world-class sonics. Includes a very fine discrete headphone amp and a user adjustable mm/mc phono section that is worth the asking-price all by itself. (236)



NAD M10 V2

\$2749

Don't let its diminutive chassis fool you; NAD's M10 packs a huge amount of technology and performance into a half-width component. The M10 is a wireless, amplified, multi-room streaming-music system.

Just connect speakers and a source (which

can be a smartphone), and you've got a complete hi-fi with 100Wpc, MQA decoding, and Dirac Live DSP room correction. NAD's BluOS app allows you to control any BluOS or Roon-enabled device to create a multi-room music experience that is simple, intuitive, and easy to operate. Attractive, luxurious, simple to set up and use, small, ridiculously well featured, the M10 is wonderfully enjoyable to listen to when connected to the right speakers for your ears and budget. (M10 reviewed in 298; V2 forthcoming)

Marantz PM-KI Ruby

\$3999

With its companion SA-KI SACD/CD player, the PM-KI constitutes the late Ken Ishiwata's valedictory work, representing four decades of electronics that place musical beauty and naturalness over laboratory accuracy. Ecumenical

when it comes to tubes versus transistors, the PM-KI exhibits some of the warmth, richness, and dimensionality traditionally associated with tubes together with the precision, definition, transient attack, bottom-end extension, and impact for which solid-state is prized, while its 100Wpc should satisfy all but head-bangers. Its onboard mm/mc phono-stage is so good it obviates the need for a separate one. Ishiwata considered the Ruby components his finest work. (302)



Rogers High Fidelity 65V-1

\$4000

Classic tube power meets modern technology in aerospace engineer Roger Gibboni's designs—there's a free iOS app enabling control of volume, source switching, and operating mode (Ultralinear or triode). Although intended as an entry-level offering, this integrated is definitely not a watered-down version of one of Rogers' big push-pull amps. In fact, it's something totally different—a single-ended design using one EL34 power pentode per channel (upon request the amp can be shipped with a KT88 beam power tube). Reviewer DO says you really would be hard-pressed to find a more cogent and emotion-packed midrange. (283)



Naim Uniti Nova

\$5990

The Naim Uniti Nova is an 80Wpc integrated amplifier/digital player for the 21st century. Input options include one single-ended analog input, one five-pin DIN input, two USB inputs (one on the front and one on the back), one SD card slot, one HDMI input, one BNC digital input, two coaxial SPDIF digital inputs, two optical TosLink inputs, wireless streaming via Chromecast, AirPlay, Bluetooth (aptX HD), or Wi-Fi (2.4 or 5GHz), and UPnP streaming via its Ethernet connection. The Uniti is also a Roon endpoint. If you need a modern single-box solution that can play from dad's NAS drive or sis' smartphone (and be controlled by any smartphone in the house), the Naim Uniti Nova can make the transition from hair-shirt audiophilia to silk-shirt convenience as painless, musically expansive, and audiophile-approved as possible. (284)



Hegel H390

\$6000

The Norwegian firm's integrated amplifiers have always been over-achievers, but the new H360 is, by a wide margin, Hegel's most impressive effort yet. With 250Wpc into 8 ohms (420Wpc into 4 ohms) and 50 percent greater current capacity than the H300 it replaces, the H360 is a powerhouse. But that power comes with Hegel's signature virtues of a gorgeous rendering of timbre, a completely relaxed and natural presentation devoid of electronic artifacts, and a spatial dimensionality that competes with expensive separates. To top it off, the integral DAC is outstanding—fully up to the quality of the amplifier. (260)



Gold Note IS-1000 Deluxe

\$6299 (\$5299 line version)

A true multi-discipline, 125Wpc Class AB, DAC-equipped, network-audio performer that summoned a neutral personality throughout the midrange with intimations of extra bloom and body in the mid and upper bass. Orchestral music possessed a firm, of-a-piece signature that was detailed and layered yet stable and immersive. Treble octaves were smooth and non-fatiguing. Transient behavior was unforced and natural, rather than overly etched and prickly. Italy's Gold Note fulfills the expectations of enthusiasts across the generations

by having produced a modern, musically engaging, and highly configurable amp. (300)

