



Naim news

Naim Audio have announced no fewer than four new products which they were expecting to supply to their dealers in June. The NAIT 3 is a further refinement of their highly successful integrated amplifier, with a greater power output of 30 watts per channel (into 8 ohms, continuous) and the ability to drive a much wider range of loudspeakers with ease. The unit has five line-level

inputs as standard but one of these can be modified by fitting a moving-magnet or moving-coil input board, a range of which has been specifically designed to match various pickup cartridge types. The NAIT 3 can be upgraded by adding a separate power supply and it can also be used as the preamplifier of a more elaborate system. It costs £499.37.

The NAC 92 preamplifier (£405.37) and NAP 90/3 power

amplifier (£395.98) are also new to this new slimline range. The NAC 92 replaces the NAC 62 and its new circuit topology has yielded significant improvements in the noise and distortion performance, apparently giving a clearer and more musical sound. Again there are five line-level inputs, one of which can be enlisted to do duty as an MM or MC pickup cartridge input by fitting an appropriate optional board. Input 1 has conventional RCA phono sockets but the rest use the lockable DIN connectors which Naim prefer, these offering a common ground for both channels. The NAP 90/3 supercedes the NAP 90, again providing a better performance in terms of noise and stability, this partly due to a new toroidal mains transformer and revised power supply, earthing and circuit layout details. Rated at 30 watts per channel into 8 ohms, with nearly double this figure into 4 ohms, it incorporates a new preamplifier power supply output, allowing it to 'drive' any Naim preamplifier. Finally, the NAT 03 FM tuner, latest incarnation of the design originally introduced to some acclaim nine years ago. With the typically highly-specified power supply which is symptomatic of the Naim approach, it opts for continuous tuning via a rotary potentiometer, with a digital display of frequency; simple to use with no frills at all, all the design effort being focused on its sonic performance. The NAT 03 costs £499.37. Further details are available from Naim Audio Ltd., Southampton Road, Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 2LN. Tel: 0722 332266.

Quad cable

Quad have introduced two types of loudspeaker cable which they claim will carry the signals from the amplifier to the loudspeaker "measurably free from disturbing distortions and in a most efficient manner. The development effort has taken nearly a year and new materials and production processes have been developed." The two cables are based on a round profile, carrying 4.0sq mm conductors, and a flat profile with 2.5mm conductors. The round profile cable is available in a choice of colours. Initially the cables are available via Quad dealers but they will be supplied to a wider range of hi-fi retailers in due course. They are priced at £5.80 and £3.50 per metre for the round and flat profiles respectively. Further details are available from Quad Electroacoustics Ltd., 18 St Peter's Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7DB. Tel: 0480 52561.

Celestion upgrades

Celestion have released improved versions of their popular 'bookshelf' loudspeakers, the Celestion 3, 5 and 7, at the same price. Now using ported enclosures, the three models have a better bass performance, higher sensitivity and increased power handling ability yet the overall cabinet sizes have been kept the same. The Celestion 3 MkII costs £129.00, the 5 MkII £169.00 and the 7 MkII £219.00. Further details from Celestion International Ltd., Foxall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8JP. Tel: 0473 723131.

Teac two-box CD

Teac have announced a high performance two-box compact disc player combination, the P-700 CD transport and D-700 multi-input digital-to-analogue converter. Priced at £899.00 the P-700 has what Teac claims to be an advanced drive mechanism, with an aluminium 'overhead' disc turntable and a BMC (Bulk Moulded Component) motor bridge. It has a high-density chassis with a heavy BMC base. The remote control handset handles most of the functions, which include 20-selection programming and a four-way repeat programme option. The display has various track number and time configurations and the unit has both coaxial and optical digital outputs.

The D-700 uses four eight-times oversampling, 20-bit D/A converters and boasts a large capacity power supply. Two coaxial and two optical inputs are provided and the unit can handle the three standard sampling frequencies of 32, 44.1 and 48kHz. Indicators are included which show emphasis, muting and amplifying frequency. It costs £599.00. Both units have a satin-finished brushed aluminium fascia. Further details are available from Teac UK Ltd., 5 Marlin House, The Croxley Centre, Watford, Herts WD1 8YA. Tel: 0923 819630.

Linn Sondek at 21

It is a remarkable achievement that the famous Linn Sondek LP12 turntable has remained at the forefront of LP record replay for 21 years. Throughout that period Linn have maintained their policy of continuous improvement, introducing many detail changes, some named (Nirvana, Valhalla, Lingo, Trampolin) and some unnamed. The latest upgrade is called Cirkus and it focuses on the main platter bearing and the mechanical integrity of its connection to the floating subchassis: the thickness of the bearing mounting flange has been substantially increased and the undercuts eliminated, making it many times more rigid; the distance between the upper and lower bearing liners has been increased to improve stability and eliminate rocking; the height of the bearing housing has been increased to ensure proper lubrication of the top bearing at all times; and a double-thickness subchassis has been developed to improve rigidity and reduce flexing. The upgrade kit includes a new inner platter and spindle and costs £250.00. As usual with such improvements, they are implemented in all new LP12s as a matter of course. Linn Products Ltd., Floors Road, Waterfoot, Glasgow G76 0EP. Tel: 041 644 5111.



Meridian tuner

In response to interest from dealers and owners of their top-end 600 series components, Meridian have developed a sophisticated version of their 204 FM tuner/timer (reviewed in January 1992). The 604 is an FM tuner only (without the timer) and features optical isolation of the radio section from the rest of the audio circuitry, resulting in an improved RF performance. Meridian's four-layer partitioned printed circuit board technology, as used extensively in their latest 200 and 600 series units, has further

aided the possibilities for improving performance. The tuner has 30 presets with 12 (user-definable) station labels; favourite station recall; definable set-up of display options; seek and step tuning; remote control from the optional handset or via Meridian system control. Both digital and analogue outputs are provided, the A-D converter employing a 64-times oversampling, 16-bit Delta-Sigma circuit. The 604 costs £1,350 and further details are available from Meridian Audio Ltd., 14 Clifton Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 7EJ. Tel: 0480 52144.