

Recommended Systems

SYSTEM 3

\$5994

Loudspeaker.....Magnepan MG 1.7, \$1995 (205);
GoldenEar Triton Two, \$2500 (214)

Solid-State Option
(for Magnepan).....Hegel H100 integrated amplifier, \$3000 (206)

Tube Option
(for GoldenEar).....PrimaLuna ProLogue Premium integrated amplifier,
\$2295 (212)

Digital Source.....Marantz SA 8004 CD/SACD, \$999 (211)

Turntable Option.....Clearaudio Concept, \$2000 (205)



Our mid-priced system offers two very different approaches to suit two very different tastes. This system illustrates the importance of matching loudspeakers with amplification, both technically and sonically.

Our first option includes the spectacular Magnepan MG 1.7 loudspeaker. This new Maggie sets a very high bar in \$2000 loudspeakers. The catch is that the 1.7's require a hefty amp to drive them, preferably solid-state. The Maggies are also as high in resolution as you can get at this price, which means you won't just need a powerful amplifier but a clean and sweet one. Enter the Hegel H100, a 100Wpc integrated from Norway that is fully up to the task of driving the 1.7s, technically and musically. For those of you with music servers, the icing on the cake is the Hegel's integral USB DAC. The downside of this system is that the 1.7's don't go that low in the bass, and need to be placed well out into the room to achieve their potential.

If those considerations make you think twice, we have a similarly priced alternative in the PrimaLuna ProLogue Premium integrated amplifier and the GoldenEar Triton Two loudspeaker. The ProLogue Premium is gorgeous-sounding, and in ways that make it an ideal mate for the Triton Two. Moreover, the ProLogue Premium's 35Wpc power rating is more than enough to drive the 91dB-sensitivity Triton Two. Since the GoldenEar has an integral

powered woofer, the ProLogue Premium is relieved of driving the woofer, saving its 35W for the midrange and treble. And what a midrange and treble it is: The Triton Two has an almost electrostatic-like transparency in the mids, a gorgeous fatigue-free treble, and a top-to-bottom seamlessness that makes it easy to forget you are listening to a loudspeaker. The powered woofer and adjustable bass deliver truly rock-solid power and weight, with an authority that suits rock as well as orchestral music. Moreover, the bass adjustments facilitate many placement options.

For both systems we've selected the Marantz SA 8004 CD/SACD player, a \$999 overachiever. This Marantz has a very neutral tonal balance, coupled with a sweetness and delicacy rare at this price. The slight trace of warmth complements both systems, as does the absence of grain.

If you're into vinyl, there's no better turntable value than the Clearaudio Concept (\$1400)—an even better deal when bundled with the \$800 Clearaudio Concept moving-coil cartridge at a package price of \$2000. The Clearaudio offers wide dynamics, low noise, and an engaging musicality that perfectly complements both our Hegel/Magnepan and PrimaLuna/GoldenEar systems.

Throw in a couple of Shunyata Venom3 AC cords at \$95 each and you've got a system that will satisfy for the long term.