The A-Team

Looking for a taste of the high life? **HFC** pretends for a moment it’s won the lottery and basks in the glory of this standmount.

**Bass is delivered with effortless drive and no sign of artificial bloom**

This then has a further layer of XG Nano-Tec graphene embedded into its surface to make it supremely rigid. How rigid, you ask, well a one-atom thick lattice of graphene is claimed to be 100 times stronger than steel and able to conduct heat and electricity with greater efficiency than any other metal. Suddenly, the high price starts to make more sense...

Further indication that we’re in the rarified arena of silk as opposed to cotton comes when you consider the standmount’s enclosure. Constructed from six 9.5mm-thick panels of 6061 T6 aircraft-grade aluminium, the A1 is then further reinforced and braced by three extra aluminium sections that are connected to the top and bottom panels as well as halfway up the enclosure. To suggest this cabinet is rock solid doesn't even come close...

Magico's pricier speaker offerings traditionally employ constrained-layer damping, with a sandwich of aluminium and a lossy polymer in order to convert vibrations to heat. In the case of the A1, however, the smaller, thicker panel size ensures that this shouldn’t be so much of an issue and so this damping is eschewed. One Magico calling card issue and so this damping is.

Magico’s composite design is a sandwich of two carbon fibre layers in front with a single one behind, separated by a vibration-deadening Rohacell filling.

**Sound quality**

Crass considerations such as price very quickly fade away when we experience the full majesty of what the A1 has to offer. From the off, this robust standmount vividly opens up any music you care to feed it, be it simplistic acoustic guitar or more complex mixes such as Mike Oldfield’s Taurus II from the deluxe edition of Five Miles Out.

Though the blend of uilleann pipes and Maggie Reilly’s haunting vocals invariably sound stunning with most loudspeaker setups, it’s the more challenging Fairlight-processed strings and keyboards that really separate the men from the boys. On lesser models than the A1 these can sound crushed, thickening and coarsening the clarity of the multi-track mix in the process. However, the Magico cuts through the murkiness like a red-hot knife through butter to reveal new levels of detail that even similarly priced rivals fail to miss. Impressively the solo bell in the performance takes on a new elegance while the dynamically challenged vocoder engrosses as detail and structure come to the fore. Suddenly the transitions between acoustic and synthesised become more embellished as the music experiences enhanced complexity.

Any speaker of note should display the ability to shrink further from view as the music takes over, but only the very best are able to perform the magic trick of disappearing completely. And in this respect, the A1 is something of a maestro.

As Carmen Lundy’s glorious vocals fill the room as she belts out Self Portrait, the piano, percussion and strings blend in a way that is devastatingly insightful and subtle. Suddenly every inflection of her voice and brush or splash of the cymbal is punctuated by ivory to stunning effect. The result is a sound that is exceedingly special, but not in a...
Magico’s A1 is an entry point to a rarified level of performance that leaves even similarly priced rivals in the shade. Flexible when it comes to placement, thanks to its infinite baffle design, this is a cabinet that you can stand anywhere and in doing so understand what all the fuss is about when it comes to high-end sonics. Hell, it even puts intermediate-sized floorstanders to shame. If you’re lucky enough to afford it, it simply demands an audition. Otherwise, it’s time to start saving your pocket money.

**Conclusion**

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**How it compares**

Exotic standmounts are not as plentiful as floorstanders, but if you are short on space and deep of pocket then the iconic Franco Serblin Accordo must be heard. Priced at £7,500-£8,000 depending on walnut or high-gloss finish, the elegantly shaped, mirror-image cabinet combines a 29mm silk-dome tweeter with a 150mm pulp-coned mid/bass unit. The detachable grille is composed of black elastic strands. The Accordo sounds sublime, laying claim to the term ‘musical’ above all else at the price.

**In Sight**

- 28mm beryllium dome tweeter
- 165mm Nano-Tec graphene mid/bass driver
- Single-wire binding posts
- 25mm beryllium dome tweeter
- 165mm Nano-Tec graphene mid/bass driver
- Single-wire binding posts

**Hi-Fi Choice**

**Our Verdict**

**Sound Quality**

LIKE: Detailed, easy going, highly relaxed sound; rock-solid build

DISLIKE: Missing octave of bass

**Value for Money**

PREPARE TO BE AMAZED, QUITE SIMPLY A STUNNING STANDMOUNT

**Ease of Drive**

**Overall**

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