

Magnat[®]

MCD 850

stereoplay
Highlight

Ausgabe 11/08



The MCD 850's sound is adorable.

Really well built and cleverly designed.

With the sparse operating elements on the solid aluminium front, the MCD 850 appears simple and noble.

"Magnat appears to be very serious about its efforts to position a high-quality but affordable electronics line. The excellent RV 1 valve amplifier, which already achieved a stereoplay Highlight (11/07), is being followed by a full hybrid amplifier and the launch of the new MCD 850 CD/SACD player. To this end, the head of developments at Magnat, Shandro Fischer, was able to win Walter Fuchs (SAC), who is a real electronics luminary. Walter Fuchs initially focused on the power supply and the output module. And so, following several listening tests, the MCD 850 was given an R-core transformer that shines over conventional ring-core types with its improved efficiency and even lesser inclination to hum. But the valve output module was still given top priority. As with the E 88 CC, each channel has been equipped with double 6922 triodes. The valves do not possess an amplifying function, they are rather responsible for impedance conversion, which gives the MCD 850 quite a low output resistance. Fuchs selected Sabator in Russia as the manufacturer of these choice valves. This company uses RFT machines and markets its products under the "Electro Harmonix" brand. According to Fuchs, these valves deliver the most convincing sound and are both very durable and very reliable. The high-quality DC-decoupling film capacitors on the module were also selected on the basis of listening tests. That the other circuit components do not stand out as much was a concession to price. For instance, Magnat based the filters in front of the valve output module on conventional 5532 stereo operation amplifiers and the 5534 mono versions. The DA converter is a good Burr-Brown PCM 1796, which directly accepts both the PCM data from CDs as well as the serial flow of data from SACDs with a precision of 24 bits and a sampling rate of 192 kilohertz. There was no reason for complaints

in the listening room. Right from the start, the MCD 850 made it clear that it intended to lead the field in this test. Its sound wasn't only rather spacious, its colour was also very natural. In the CD test, even the stereoplay Highlight Naim CD 5i (12/07) only sounded different as a pure CD player – but not better. The Naim conveyed more direct voices and was able to make points with a fuller bass range, but the Magnat was able to deliver finer trebles and a more precise reproduction of individual instruments within an orchestra. With the Tutti passages, the CD 5i emphasized the power of the orchestra while the MCD 850 was more concerned with the movement of bows across strings and the space in which the recording took place. This difference continued into pop music: the Naim emphasized the big drum and e-bass while placing voices in the foreground. The Magnat let cymbals sparkle, inserted voices more precisely into what was happening and dedicated itself to the finer nuances of articulation. Here, its feeling for the interactions of the musicians was just as confident. The results of the CD test quickly became clear, but the switch to SACDs made assigning points difficult for the testers. But not because the sound was any worse, on the contrary, a wide space and considerably more details were the consequence of the switch to the discs with more information. The system was able to convey a few more musical details and weave the trebles more finely than the Marantz SA

7001. The Magnat easily achieved a full stereoplay Highlight.



The MCD 850's sleek design is without fault in this price class. Even the drive with Sanyo laser is fitted in a metal casing. The R-core transformer, which for a CD player possesses very large dimensions, is effective and has a low inclination to hum.

The MCD 850 possesses a separate double triode in on each channel's output. They have been cleverly wired, which results in low output resistance and a fine valve sound."

stereoplay TEST RESULT	
Sound CD/SACD	
Absolute Top Class	58/64 Points
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Overall Result	
Very Good	88 Points
Price/Performance	OUTSTANDING

Included in the test were:

- Magnat MCD 850
- Marantz SA 7003
- Yamaha CD S 1000