



hifi & records

Das Magazin für
hochwertige Musikwiedergabe

during a side-by-side comparison: the Decade Jubilee depicts a fascinatingly accurate and large room in all three dimensions where the most diverse sound sources join to form a harmonic soundscape, and this undoubtedly in superb quality. The music can now be experienced from very close and free of any barriers.

With the 23-minute opus »Echoes« by Pink Floyd the Jubilee eventually demonstrates true musical grandeur. Sure, it reveals the characteristics of the recording technology of fifty years ago, but this perception does not dominate what's going on here. Instead the phono amp is capable of delivering a tonal flow which carries me away from my daily routine. And above all it's the constant energy that provides the solid acoustic frame. Budget priced phono pres do not nearly present such an expressiveness – not even the original Decade. The Jubilee edition proves impressively what sonic improvements can be achieved by the clever use of finest parts and constructive changes, even in a time-honoured component like the Decade – magnificent.

Philip Cornelius ■

Upgrade

It may have been the good sonic results with Mundorf's tin foil capacitors in the Silver Cube which encouraged Norbert Lehmann to spice up his Decade phono amp – which delivers already an excellent performance in its classic version – with even finer audiophile ingredients and thus upgrade it to the Jubilee edition. The differences show already in the outer appearance: the two compact, non-magnetic housings now rest on the proprietary 3S device feet (hifi & records 4/2020). In the power supply the current flows through copper tracks of tripled layer thickness. Power is fed to the actual phono preamp through a long and carefully shielded four-pin XLR cable. The front panel lets you select between MM and MC, set the gain and activate a »soft bass rolloff« filter. As usual the adjustments to different pickups are done via DIP switches in the bottom plate.

Lehmannaudio has revised the Decade phono amplifier. How does the Jubilee version sound?

As the game partner for the Decade Jubilee we chose the Transrotor Dark Star turntable, equipped with the MC Figaro. On its platter the album »Elwan« by Tinariwen was waiting, a band whose musicians belong to the North African Tuareg tribe. They mingle traditional melodies and rhythms of their homeland with pop and rock elements. Right from the first note, the Jubilee delivers more intense acoustic timbres and a solid, powerful and controlled low-end fundament that wants by no means correspond to its compact size. And there is still another quality which didn't catch my attention immediately, but only

Lehmannaudio Decade Jubilee

WxHxD	11 x 5 x 28 cm
Warranty	2 years
Price	3.399 euros
Distribution	Lehmannaudio Waltherstraße 49 - 51, Geb. 4 51069 Köln
Web	lehmannaudio.com