

# Audio

The music  
lovers' guide  
to the best hi-fi

## Contents

### Audio news

- 120** News and new products from Arcam, Castle Acoustics, KEF Audio, Onkyo, McIntosh and Meridian

### Linn at 21

- 123** Ivor Humphreys ventures north of the border to visit the famous hi-fi company

### Equipment reviews

- 126** Philips CD750 compact disc player  
**128** Aura VA-80 integrated amplifier  
**131** KEF Reference Series Model One loudspeaker  
**134** Denon D-F10 mini system

### Hi-fi buyers' guide

- 137** Our annual listing of recommended products, now greatly expanded

### BADA listing

- 154** Details of the British Audio Dealers Association, its code of ethics and its members

Onkyo K-W606 dual cassette recorder



## Meridian A500

New from Meridian Audio is the A500 loudspeaker. A slim, floor-standing design with a smoked glass top plate to match the elegant 500 series electronics units, it employs two 165mm driver units for the bass and midrange and a 25mm soft (silk) dome tweeter. High grade crossover components are used, together with low impedance heavy gauge copper wiring. The crossover is split to permit bi-wiring or bi-amplification and the plinth has spiked feet. The A500 has a frequency range of 40Hz-20kHz and is deemed suitable for amplifiers rated at between 20 and 100 watts. Finished in real wood veneers with a black lycra-based grille cloth, it costs £695 in black ash or £745 in rosewood. Further details from Meridian Audio Limited, 14 Clifton Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 7EJ. Telephone 01480 52144.



## McIntosh integrated

The American hi-fi company McIntosh Laboratory, whose C712/MC7100 pre/power amplifier combination we reviewed last September, is to launch several new products in the first half of this year. The first to be announced is the MA6800 integrated amplifier, a 150 watts per channel fully remote controlled design, with eight inputs labelled Phono/Aux, CD1, CD1, Tuner, Video and Tapes 1, 2 and 3. There are separate record and listen selectors, balance and tone con-

trols plus, unusually, a variable loudness control. There is provision for the connection of two sets of loudspeakers as well as a headphones socket and the splendidly old fashioned look is completed with two moving-needle power output meters. Volume is displayed by a twin seven-segment red LED display. The new amplifier is expected to cost £3,500. Further details are available from MPI Electronic, 12 Weston Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6AU. Telephone 01483 454993.



## Onkyo double

The latest unit in Onkyo's "Liverpool" mini component series is the K-W606 twin cassette deck (pictured left). This design has a microprocessor-controlled tape transport system which, among other functions, allows switching from one tape mode to another without first pressing Stop. Each of the two transports has discrete capstan and reel motors and both also feature auto-reverse. A continuous playback option runs both sides of each cassette in sequence up to four times, starting with either transport, finally shutting off the deck automatically. In "Album" mode the microprocessor determines that if a track will not fit on to the remaining tape, it will be recorded instead on the second side. Alternatively the "Fadeout" mode will provide an automatic fade-out at the end of one side and a fade-in at the start of the next. Onkyo's "RI Compatible Remote Control System" means that most of the K-W606's functions can be operated from any Onkyo remote control bearing the "RI" symbol. Other features include deck-to-deck dubbing, auto tape type selection, auto space record muting, separate up/down recording level controls, electronic tape position indicator and Dolby B, C and HX Pro. The K-W606 costs £369.95. Onkyo UK, 401-405 Nether Street, London N3 1QG. Telephone 0181-343 2082.