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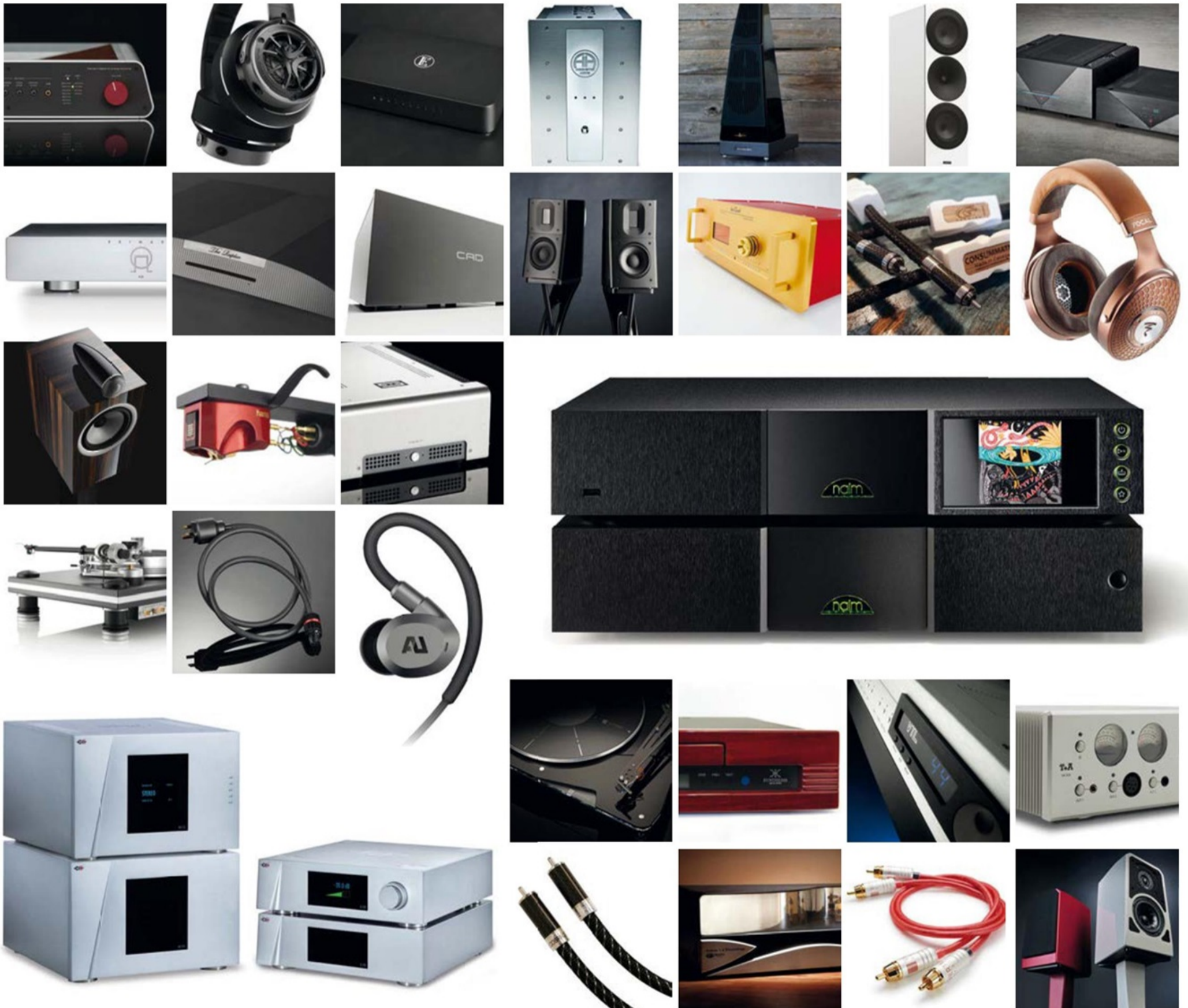
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INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER OF THE YEAR, UP TO £10,000 Arcam SA30

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Arcam has been a mainstay of the UK audio scene since the 1970s and although the company is now intrinsically linked with Harman International, the company’s long-standing goal of making great sounding, inherently affordable, science-led amplification shows no signs of changing.

The Arcam SA30 features 120 watts (into 8 ohms, 220w in 4 ohms) of Class G amplification, a host of analogue and digital inputs (running from both moving magnet and moving coil phono stages to an enhanced Audio Return Channel HDMI socket, and encompassing wireless Apple AirPlay 2 and Chromecast to Roon and UPnP) and a very agreeable Sabre ESS9038K2M 32bit DAC. Arcam’s SA30 also supports Dirac Research’s ‘Live 3’ room correction software (plus a mic with which to get the full benefit). For what is basically a ‘hi-fi’ amplifier, this is unparalleled flexibility.

In our test, Simon Lucas was impressed by the SA30, “It dishes the midrange details with particular relish, it sounds big and well organised, and its tonal balance errs pleasantly on the side of the natural and organic. It’s dynamic, but never at the expense of insight; it’s expansive, but never sounds disjointed.’ He concluded by saying, “in sonic and connectivity terms, it nevertheless makes an impressively strong and complete case for itself.” +

Reviewed in Issue **186**

