



PHOTO CAPTION front: You can see your reflection in real gold. The front is plated with 24 karats of the precious metal. The Danish manufacturer stands behind this product with a full five-year warranty.

THE GRYPHON – AN EXCLUSIVE STEP-UP

A DANISH CHALLENGE IN 24 KARAT GOLD

This beauty of an MC step-up device is developed, designed and produced in Denmark. And it sounds every bit as good as it looks. Even at kr. 7.900, the price is reasonable.

Believe me, this genuine work of hi-fi art is not just photogenic, it is just as beautiful in reality.

That is 24 karat gold on the front panel and every centimeter exudes an air of perfectionism and a taste for luxurious finish. Exclusive is the word.

That such magnificence also ranks among the finest head amps we have ever heard, puts the entire matter in an even more favorable light.

The Gryphon is of Danish origin, developed and manufactured under the guidance of Flemming Rasmussen.

He has been an importer of hi-fi interconnects for many years and has more recently made such select brands as Kiseki, Eminent Technology and Krell available to Danish audiophiles.

Flemming Rasmussen felt the need for one more product in his line, a head amp to boost the ultralow voltages from fine moving coil cartridges to match the control amplifier's phono input.

Setting out to create a product of uncompromising design and sound quality, Flemming Rasmussen assembled a team of professional audio engineers, a component expert, a mechanical engineer and a designer.

THE GRYPHON IS A DUAL MONO DESIGN

The Gryphon's gold-plated front panel literally holds together one of the primary design goals which Flemming Rasmussen's team set out to achieve. The Gryphon utilizes transistors in its amplification stages and the two rectangular -pipes- behind the front panel contain completely independent step-up stages for the left and right channels.

The two -pipes- even have separate power supplies in small boxes with mains plugs. The dual mono construction is of vital importance to the perfect separation of instruments in the stereo soundstage, since even the slightest crosstalk from one channel to the other will reduce image specificity. Crosstalk may be due to signals in the left and right channels being able to -see- one another through a shared power supply or may be caused by the close proximity of printed circuit boards in the same chassis.

Two power supplies and separate chassis for the two amplifier stages does away with crosstalk.

The impedance of different brands and types of MC cartridges varies, typically from 3 to 500 ohms. Thus a given MC cartridge will only deliver optimum performance with the proper loading impedance.



PHOTO CAPTION rear: The Gryphon has two power supplies. This optimizes channel separation, resulting in improved soundstaging.

Mismatching can result in uneven frequency response, insufficient amplification and softening of the leading edge of musical transients.

IMPEDANCE CORRECTION WITH SMALL PHONO PLUGS

The Gryphon allows flexible and convenient loading for the cartridge of your choice. The impedance can be changed merely by switching small phono plugs on the rear panel. The plugs supplied with the head amp contain small resistors and are color-coded to indicate impedance value.

When we turn to the sonic performance of the Gryphon, one of the design team's primary objectives becomes clear: the utter absence of hum and other forms of noise in the amplification circuitry. Even with low-impedance, low-output cartridges, the softest of musical passages are free of audible noise at the listening position.

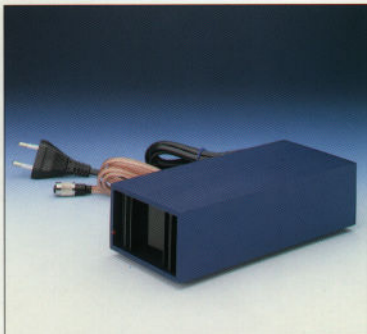
The Gryphon is in itself sonically neutral, with just a hint of leanness in the bass. The fine cartridge loading options make it an extremely useful tool for audiophiles who frequently change cartridges. Flexible cartridge loading alone does not, of course, guarantee a proper sonic match. In the Gryphon the usefulness of the loading options is largely a product of

the quality of the amplifier stages.

The space between players in recordings of acoustic music is reproduced with millimeter accuracy. The stereo perspective possesses all the depth and width of the best available step-up transformers and the ultralow-noise Gryphon reveals a surprising number of micro-details, delicate sounds normally lost in the hum and noise of many transistor designs.

We gladly run the risk of being called Danish chauvinists because the Gryphon is quite simply one of the finest transistor head amps available, with another Danish product, the Daner Open, in hot pursuit. And not only does the Gryphon sound wonderful – with any cartridge loading – it is also unbelievably beautiful.

This review is translated from Hi Fi & Elektronik Magazine, Denmark, March 1987 by permission of the editors.



The Gryphon head amp is now available with a new -overkill- power supply designed as a power line conditioner for areas with fluctuating, unstable electric power.

TECHNICAL SPECIFIKATIONS:

Output impedance	: 220 Ohm, non complex
Input impedance	: 200 Ohm/1nF, user adjustable
Gain	: 30 dB
THD	: ref 100uV input : below noise floor of cartridge
2. harmonic	: ref 100uV input : < 0.003% (-90dB), 20Hz-200KHz
3. harmonic	: ref 100uV input : < 0.0003% (-110dB), 20Hz-200KHz
Frequency resp.	: +0/-0.01 dB : 20- 500.000 Hz, load 50 pF
	: +0/-3dB : 1-10.000.000 Hz, load 50 pF
S/N (ref. 0.5mV)	: 80 dB flat, unweighted
Slewrate (output)	: 100V/uS
Headroom ref. 100uV input	: 60dB
Shipping weight	: 5.6 Kgs

*available for the technically minded, is an in depth GRYPHON design story, with full technical description.

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