



Shanling MC-30 Music Center

CD player and tuner with 3Wpc single-ended tube amplifier section, full remote control, and a built-in iPod docking station. The clean design is also a reflection of some innovative engineering: The top caps of the front pair of footers are in fact an input selector and a volume control. Shanling's trademark blue lighting enshrines the transparent CD transport lid. A gem of a conversation piece that cuts across all generations.

Music Hall also has reintroduced its CD receiver, the \$999 **Maven**. Equipped with 24-bit/192kHz upsampling, a digital input, video switching, and dual sets of speaker terminals, this all-aluminum beauty with 100Wpc is going to set hearts aflutter as its price drops from \$1500 to \$999.

Likewise, **Primare** of Scandinavia is not generally known for electronics that hew to the "lifestyle" model. Its amplifiers, preamps, and processors are robustly built, richly but modestly styled, and powerfully equipped. But once again, thanks to the iPod, the need for minimalist second-room stereo systems is too much of a marketing opportunity for any company to pass up. Unlike the more retro-appeal of the Shanling, the **CDI-10** CD receiver (\$2195) is as contemporary as audio components come. It employs a heavy-gauge steel chassis and a powerful

cutting-edge 75Wpc Class D switching amp—in this instance, proprietary to Primare. Distributor Sumiko also stated that we'll be seeing more of this Class D technology from Primare in the year to come. It uses regulated power supply technology, is fully remote controlled, and has incorporated an interesting and elegant twist on iPod connectivity. Rather than the increasingly common docking station, it has a front-panel mini-jack that is switchable between input and output. This enables it to be used for headphone use or jacking into an iPod.

A Bonanza of Integrated Amps

The resiliency of the integrated amplifier market has been nothing short of spectacular. It appears to be accelerating in popularity at all price points. The new **PrimaLuna Dialogue One** (\$2199) has to be one of the steals of the show, especially if you're a tube aficionado. It combines the features of all PrimaLuna amps but adds the choice of 18Wpc triode or 36Wpc ultralinear switching, a true home-theater bypass, and a sturdy brushed-aluminum remote control. But, like they say on the Home Shopping Network, there's more!

For an additional \$300, PrimaLuna offers the **Dialogue Two**, tricked out with KT88 output tubes, Solen caps, and a higher-gloss finish and faceplate. PrimaLuna is offering something to enthusiasts that's in increasingly short supply in the high end—great performance and a boat load of fun.

Who would have guessed that when you mate a pair of Snappers out would pop a **Manta Ray**? Some would say only from the mind of EveAnna Manley, the forward-thinking helmer of **Manley Labs**. While other high-end companies ponder the multi-channel future or dismiss the iPod as a prank, Ms. Manley



PrimaLuna Dialogue One



Primare CDI-10