



Electrocompaniet ECM 1 MkII

HIGHLY COMMENDED
NETWORK STREAMER



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Few companies of Electrocompaniet’s scale develop their own proprietary streaming software and control app because it’s time-consuming and consequently costly. However, the Norwegian brand has a proven track record in streaming; it was the first to integrate Qobuz into its Linux-based software in 2015, and its team in Leeds has been advancing the technology ever since. That experience shines through the ECM 1 MkII’s streaming support (you get Spotify, Tidal and Qobuz Connect, AirPlay 2, Roon and Audirvana readiness, plus Bluetooth) and the functional-over-fancy EC Play app control.

Connectivity is decent, if not sublime: there are volume-controllable analogue outputs in the usual form, digital coaxial and optical inputs (fed by a DAC that supports an adequate-for-most-music 24-bit/192kHz limit), and streaming connections that provide a USB port for a separate drive and a coaxial digital output. Sure, it would be handy to have more inputs and a USB output, but that platter should cater for most equipment you might want to connect. Besides, it’s easy to forgive any shortcomings when you hear what the “uncannily musical” ECM 1 MkII can do.

Top-class execution

Impressive detail levels, expressive dynamics and well-rendered scale – tick, tick, tick. “This streamer doesn’t emphasise any particular aspect of the music but paints a substantial and detailed aural picture that you’ll want to keep experiencing,” says Jason Kennedy. “It possesses the ability to engage both heart and mind, drawing the listener in and revealing what’s magical about the music.” Add to this engaging performance the ECM 1 MkII’s solid build quality, and you have a streamer that should be on anyone’s must-audition list.

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