

PRESS RELEASE

QUAD

August 2016

Press contact: Tim Bown

020 8654 8945

07854 966071

tim@andygilesassociates.co.uk

+44 (0)1480 447700

www.quad-hifi.co.uk



Above: Quad VA-One integrated valve amplifier with USB and Bluetooth connectivity

Classic hi-fi for modern music lovers

Quad's VA-One compact integrated valve amp is the perfect marriage of classic valve technology and modern digital convenience, including USB and Bluetooth connectivity

Cambridgeshire, England -- Now in its 81st year, Quad – Britain's original high-end audio brand – has been making venerated valve amplifiers for home use since the late 1940s. The company's latest model, the VA-One, brings the concept bang up to date; a compact integrated amplifier that fuses Quad's traditional valve-based audio expertise with the modern convenience of digital audio streaming.

With a footprint measuring just 18x33cm, the VA-One is conveniently compact for a stereo valve amp – sufficiently small to sit comfortably on a desk, table or shelf. Yet it packs in a wealth of high-performance audio technology: a hi-res DAC (Digital-to-Analogue Converter) joins valve-based preamp and power amp circuits to deliver sumptuous sound quality from a multitude of playback devices – from smartphones and tablets, to PCs and Macs, to hi-fi source components.

Three digital audio inputs – optical, coaxial and asynchronous USB – support data up to 24-bit/192kHz, and an RCA-phono input gives the option to connect an analogue source like a CD player or a turntable (when used with a suitable phono stage). In addition, those who enjoy the freedom of wireless connectivity can pair smartphones, tablets and computers via Bluetooth, with support for the sonically superior aptX codec.

The VA-One boasts an impressive compliment of valves for such a compact device (seven in all). The preamp section incorporates an ECC83 high-impedance triode, feeding an ECC82 twin triode driver and phase splitter stage. The output stage uses two EL84 pentodes per channel in push-pull configuration, delivering 2x15W – sufficient power to drive efficient modern speakers to high volume levels, whilst maintaining the sumptuous sound quality derived from the amp's valve-based topology.

As well as providing the fluid, immersive sonic performance associated with classic valve amplification, the VA-One delivers lashings of musical detail without the unwanted coloration often associated with inferior valve-based products, thanks to the highly specified output transformers.

Build quality is impeccable both inside and out, as one expects of Quad. Internal components have been carefully selected to ensure the VA-One maintains the company's traditional dictum of "the closest approach to the original sound", while external styling is classically Quad, finished in traditional 'Lancaster Grey'. The amp's front panel sports a smooth-acting volume control incorporating a motorised potentiometer, allowing precise adjustment via the supplied remote control, together with a high-quality headphone output and controls for input selection and Bluetooth pairing.

It all adds up to the ideal compact amplifier for modern music lovers who crave the mellifluous sound quality and delicious retro appeal of valves, whilst listening to music from all manner of modern devices, like smartphones, tablets and computers.

The Quad VA-One integrated valve amplifier is available from mid-August, priced at £1299.95 (RRP). It joins the similarly styled PA-One headphone amp in Quad's expanding 'One' range of valve-based amplifiers with integrated DAC circuitry.



Above: Quad VA-One with Quad S-1 speakers in Sapele Mahogany

QUAD

Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, Quad boasts the longest and most distinguished history. The company has been at the cutting edge of audio since 1936, continually pushing back the boundaries of performance with technologies both new and established. In 1953, the Quad II valve amplifier was launched, setting new standards for audio amplification, and three years later Quad invented the first full-range electrostatic speaker – later known as the legendary ESL 57.

Throughout the ensuing years, Quad products have continued to win worldwide acclaim, building a reputation for excellence that bears comparison with the most distinguished brands in any field. Quad has been part of the International Audio Group (IAG) since 1998, following its acquisition from the Verity Group (alongside Wharfedale). The company's design and technical support teams and much-admired servicing department continue to be based in Cambridgeshire, England, supported by key personnel who have worked with Quad for decades.

IAG's exceptional resources and unrivalled audio manufacturing facilities ensure that Quad's current range boasts many award-winning products, including the latest generation of ESL electrostatic speakers, class-leading valve amplifiers, dynamic 'box' speakers and a range of solid-state audio electronics that fuse high-end performance with innovative connectivity. 80 years after its formation, Quad continues to be driven by the philosophy of its founder, Peter Walker, to produce "the closest approach to the original sound".

www.quad-hifi.co.uk

IAG

IAG (International Audio Group) is a manufacturer of audio equipment for domestic and professional use, plus professional lighting systems and luxury yachts. With its headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Asia and offices (including R&D) in the UK and North America, IAG is a manufacturer with a truly global reach.

IAG's audio business employs more than 2,000 people worldwide. Its factory complex in China is one of the largest custom-designed consumer electronics manufacturing facilities in the world and benefits from an exceptional level of vertical integration, with all component parts – even the tooling – made in-house. The Group's domestic audio brands – Audiolab, Castle Acoustics, Luxman, Mission, Quad and Wharfedale – all enjoy a worldwide reputation for excellence, with illustrious histories that stretch back decades. World-renowned British and European audio talent continues to lie at the heart of these brands, spearheading design and engineering teams brimming with international pedigree.

The combination of rich brand heritage, purpose-built production facilities in China and experienced audio engineers from around the globe makes IAG a unique proposition in the world of consumer electronics.

www.iaguk.com



For more information, product samples or high-resolution images, please contact Tim Bown
T: 020 8654 8945 M: 07854 966071 E: tim@andygilesassociates.co.uk
