

Press release



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Above Platina Integrated – the best integrated amplifier QUAD has ever made

QUAD's finest-ever integrated amplifier

Five years in the making, QUAD is finally ready to launch its most accomplished range of audio electronics yet: the Platina Series, hi-fi's new gold standard, with the Platina Integrated at its heart

Cambridgeshire, England -- Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, QUAD (an acronym for Quality Unit Amplifier Domestic) boasts the most distinguished of histories. Across the decades, the company has delivered many innovations leading to products considered to be the best of their time – valve amplifiers, electrostatic and dynamic loudspeakers, and solid-state electronics that took nascent transistor technology and elevated it to new sonic heights.

Since QUAD's first transistor-based stereo amplifier – the iconic 33/303 pre/power amp, introduced in 1967 – the company has revised and updated its solid-state audio electronics across successive generations, continuing to innovate whilst carefully maintaining 'QUAD DNA'. All of which has led to this: the Platina Integrated, QUAD's finest integrated amplifier yet.

The culmination of a five-year R&D project, the Platina Series is QUAD's new flagship range of audio electronics. Visitors to international audio shows since 2023 may have had the opportunity to experience prototypes of the Platina Integrated, but the amp was still in development (alongside other Platina components) and QUAD did not want to put it into production until the design was perfected. Now, the Platina Integrated is ready to launch, alongside a matching network player called Platina Stream. A third component – a CD transport – will join the range in 2026.

QUAD Platina Integrated new amp architecture

The Platina Integrated forms the beating heart of the Platina Series – as such, its performance is critical to the range. QUAD's team of electronics engineers re-examined every circuit element that makes a QUAD amp distinctly 'QUAD', from input to output, and took everything back to a clean sheet. They then designed a fitting new flagship for the QUAD brand circuit by circuit and, through an exhaustive process of testing and listening, refined the design until the Platina Integrated was production ready. (QUAD has never rushed product development, an ethos instilled by its founder Peter Walker.)

With a wide range of digital and analogue inputs – the former including HDMI and USB, and the latter featuring a new MM/MC phono stage design – the Platina Integrated is a hi-fi powerhouse ideal for driving the world's finest loudspeakers, including QUAD's recently launched ESL X electrostatic models.

QUAD Platina Integrated power by design

The Platina Integrated's heavyweight power amp stage pulls no punches in its quest for sonic supremacy – a dual-mono Class AB design delivering 200W per channel into 8 ohms and 300W into 4 ohms, with a maximum output current of 20A. Engineered to drive even the toughest speaker loads with consummate ease, the amp exudes effortless authority with vast headroom and dynamic control.



Left Weighing in at a hefty 17.1kg, QUAD's new integrated amp is designed to combine prodigious power with exceptional poise

Over its five-year development period, numerous circuit component combinations were trialled by ear to ensure they worked in concert to deliver the desired musical result. Where suitable components were not available off the shelf, they were custom-designed – for example, bespoke capacitors were developed in collaboration with renowned specialist Wurth Elektronik, exclusively for the Platina amp.

A massive, ultra-low-noise 630VA toroidal transformer, also specially designed for the Platina Integrated, combines with a large filter capacity in the power supply (44,000uF per channel) and cascaded voltage regulators in the analogue and digital sections to uphold QUAD's reputation for musical integrity. From the subtlest harmonic overtones to the full force of a dynamic crescendo, the Platina Integrated delivers music with exceptional realism, dimensionality and grace.

The amp's architecture leverages extensive surface-mount component integration to achieve a compact, low impedance, noise immune design with excellent thermal stability. These short, meticulously designed connection lines deliver lower parasitic inductance and resistance, which in turn

translates to lower impedance in signal and power paths, reduced susceptibility to noise and oscillations, and improved high-frequency performance. Optimised component placement also minimises circuit loops – important for current paths – while reducing electromagnetic interference and improving thermal and electrical symmetry, which is key for both sonic fidelity and long-term reliability.

A microprocessor-controlled, high-linearity, active analogue volume control delivers precise, smoothly stepped adjustment. Its design uses four separate channels to enable balanced analogue signals to remain in their balanced state all the way from the XLR input and the onboard DAC's differential output, through the preamp and volume stages, to the XLR preamp output – another element that contributes to the Platina Integrated's excellent performance in the banishment of noise and distortion.

QUAD Platina Integrated equipped for a varied sonic menu

Designed to sit at the centre of a high-performance, multi-source audio system, the Platina Integrated offers an impressive array of inputs. On the digital side, a USB-C port caters for hi-res audio to the highest specification, alongside four S/PDIF inputs (two coaxial and two optical).



Left Impeccably engineered inside and out, the versatile Platina Integrated provides a wide range of digital and analogue connections

QUAD has also included an HDMI ARC port for seamless AV system integration. This allows the amp to connect to a TV using a single HDMI cable, with the added convenience of being able to use the TV remote to power the amp on/off with the TV, adjust volume and so on. Thus, the TV and everything connected to it – from streaming devices to games consoles – receive a huge sonic upgrade superior to any soundbar. This is a facility that is increasingly in demand from purchasers of stereo amps, fuelled by the fact that many people are using their TV systems to stream music as well as video content.

Four stereo inputs are provided for analogue sources: one balanced XLR and three RCA (two line-level and one for a turntable). In addition to high-quality gold-plated binding posts for connecting speakers, output options include RCA and balanced XLR pre-outs – to feed an external power amp or active speakers, or to add a subwoofer – and a 6.35mm headphone socket.

QUAD Platina Integrated dazzling with digital sources

The Platina Integrated's digital stage is built around the ES9038PRO – a preeminent DAC chip from the top tier of ESS Technology's current Sabre range. The chip's eight audio channels are fully utilised to

deliver a balanced differential stereo signal, eradicating noise and distortion alongside proprietary QUAD circuitry.

Sabre DAC chips must be implemented with care to extract their full sonic potential. The post-DAC active filter is a critical element – QUAD has incorporated a Class A circuit that is perfectly tailored to make the most of the ES9038PRO's exceptional signal-to-noise performance and dynamic range.

Two ultra-precision master clocks work with the DAC chip to banish jitter (data timing errors that cause audible distortion). One of these is dedicated to the Red Book CD-standard 44.1kHz sample rate and multiples thereof, while the other locks down sample rates based on the 48kHz standard – hi-res PCM sample rates are commonly multiples of 48 (96kHz, 192kHz, 384kHz and so on).



Left The amp's outstanding DAC stage benefits all manner of digital sources, including the forthcoming Platina CD transport

The Platina Integrated's hi-res audio support is state-of-the-art, handling PCM to 32-bit/768kHz and DSD to 22.5MHz (DSD512). Lower quality audio streams are upsampled to 352.8kHz/384kHz, or users can instead apply one of five DAC reconstruction filters to tune the sound from digital sources – especially useful given the variable quality of audio formats and streaming services. The S/PDIF inputs' DPLL (Digital Phase Lock Loop) can be adjusted to accommodate varying levels of jitter in the incoming signal, and the amp is certified Roon Tested to work seamlessly in a Roon-controlled environment.

Whether connected via USB, HDMI or S/PDIF, every digital source benefits from the outstanding quality of the Platina Integrated's DAC stage, from computers and CD players to TVs and streaming devices.

QUAD Platina Integrated vibrant with vinyl records

QUAD has developed a new phono stage to ensure all the detail dug from the grooves of a vinyl record is delivered with engaging clarity and verve. A JFET-based design, it amplifies the signal from both moving magnet (MM) and moving coil (MC) phono cartridges to line level and applies precise RIAA equalisation, revealing supreme definition, depth and dynamic range.

Users can select from three gain settings – 46dB, 52dB and 60dB – to perfectly match the output characteristics of their chosen cartridge. The phono stage's ultra-low-noise performance sets it far apart from the phono stages typically included in integrated amps, especially when used with low-output MC cartridges which require great care when boosting the signal to a useable level.

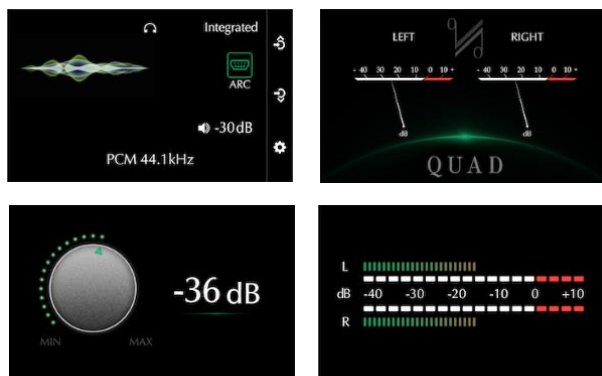
QUAD Platina Integrated heavenly with headphones

Headphone lovers are well served by dedicated headphone amp circuitry which, like the phono stage, delivers a sound superior to that typically offered by the headphone outputs of integrated amps. Its ultra-low-noise current-feedback design ensures greater clarity, wider bandwidth and superior transient response, reacting faster and more emphatically to dynamic changes in the music.

QUAD Platina Integrated built for a premium experience

Every element of the Platina Integrated's design and construction has been carefully considered to ensure the amp is a pleasure to own and use. Although its industrial design is entirely new, there are visual echoes of past QUAD amps in its fascia design and side-mounted heat sinks. In all other respects, the Platina Integrated looks firmly to the future.

The amp's sturdy chassis is fashioned from steel with a thick anodised aluminium front panel and vibration-damping feet, constructed to not only feel reassuringly substantial but also protect the electronics within from all manner of interference. The fascia design is strikingly minimalist, especially when the 4.3in IPS LCD screen is switched off – the display, headphone output and three buttons are positioned discreetly within a central black band that extends right to surround a machined aluminium rotary control. This encoder is both the volume control and a multifunctional tool to navigate the amp's graphically rich user interface.



Left The Platina Integrated's GUI, displayed on its 4.3in colour screen, gives access to settings, format data and even a VU-style meter display

The menu system gives access to various user-selectable settings such as the upsampling and filter modes for digital sources, and gain and input impedance for vinyl. Other adjustable options include sensitivity for the analogue inputs, left/right balance control, fixed or variable output in 'pre mode', elapsed time before entering standby and maximum volume on power up.

The display itself is full colour, sporting 800x480 pixels across its 4.3in screen, with a stellar shade of 'sci-fi green' used as the Platina Series' signature colour. When the user is not accessing the amp's settings there is a choice of five on-screen options: the default display showing selected input, volume level, audio format and so on; VU-style meters in 'analogue' or 'digital' form showing real-time signal levels before or after the volume control; the Platina Series logo; or the classic QUAD logo. The display can be simplified by removing animations, and dimmed or turned off completely, as the user prefers.

QUAD Platina Integrated the closest approach to the original sound

QUAD's ethos has always been to reproduce the original musical performance captured in a recording – its character, detail and essence – as accurately as possible. This quest gave rise to the classic QUAD dictum: 'The closest approach to the original sound'.

These words were front and centre throughout the development of the Platina Integrated. It is an amplifier of substance, of balance and scale, presenting a sonic picture of realistic width and depth without over- or under-emphasising any part of the frequency spectrum. 'Effortless musicality' is a phrase that springs to mind – music is conveyed with natural, unforced expression, hitting the emotional notes the artist intended with consummate skill.

Whatever the source, digital or analogue, the Platina Integrated always entertains but does so with grace and sophistication. Pace and timing are on point, delivering rhythms with crisp, incisive punch and bass with depth and slam when called for by the music, yet every element remains seamlessly in balance with supreme grip and control. More delicate musical styles are delivered with spellbinding clarity, revealing every nuance from the pluck of strings to the full character of a voice.



Left Fully in tune with QUAD's sonic ethos, the Platina Integrated is the finest integrated amplifier the company has ever made

Orchestras, rock bands, electronic compositions – the Platina Integrated is equally accomplished across all manner of music. Dynamic and engaging but never over-pushy, crisp and detailed but never over-analytical, it simply puts the music first and lets it speak to the listener the way the artist intended.

The amp's technical and subjective qualities mean it is unfussy about speakers – even tough high-end loads are handled with aplomb. It forms a fabulous ensemble with QUAD's latest electrostatic speakers, the ESL-2812X and ESL-2912X, possessing the power/current delivery and all-round sonic ability to match their transparency and lightning-fast transient response. Together they captivate the listener, delivering instruments and voices with startling realism within an expansive soundstage.

QUAD Platina Integrated price and availability

Combining the power of a champion heavyweight with the agility of a world-beating featherweight, the QUAD Platina Integrated amplifier is available from November. It comes with a choice of silver or black front panel, at an RRP of £3,499.

A second Series Platina component, the Platina Stream network player, begins shipping at the same time as the Platina Integrated (see forthcoming press release). A matching CD transport will follow in early spring 2026.



Left The first of a trio of QUAD Platina Series components, the Platina Integrated amplifier is a splendid work of sonic art

QUAD PLATINA INTEGRATED – INPUTS	
1x USB-C (32-bit/768kHz PCM; native DSD512)	
1x HDMI ARC (HDMI 2.1/eARC compatible)	
4x S/PDIF (2x optical, 2x coaxial; sample rates to 192kHz)	
1x stereo balanced XLR	
3x stereo RCA (2x line-level, 1x MM/MC phono)	
1x USB-A for firmware updates	
1x 12V trigger	

QUAD PLATINA INTEGRATED – OUTPUTS	
Gold-pated speaker binding posts	
1x stereo balanced XLR	
1x stereo RCA	
1x 6.35mm headphone	
1x 12V trigger	

QUAD PLATINA INTEGRATED – OTHER SELECTED SPECIFICATIONS	
DAC stage	ES9038PRO chipset and bespoke circuitry; optional upsampling and digital filter settings
Phono stage	Ultra-low-noise MM/MC circuit design with adjustable gain (46dB, 52dB, 60dB)
Amp circuitry	Dual-mono Class AB; custom components inc. capacitors and 630VA toroidal transformer
Power output	2x 200W (8Ω, THD<1%); 2x 300W (4Ω, THD<1%)
Power amp distortion (THD)	<0.0008% (1kHz @ 100W/8Ω)
Maximum current delivery	2x 20A
Display	4.3in, 800x480 pixels, full colour IPS LCD; extensive display and menu options
Dimensions (WxHxD)	445x134.5x348mm
Weight	17.1kg

QUAD

Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, QUAD (an acronym for Quality Unit Amplifier Domestic) boasts the longest and most distinguished history. The company has been at the cutting edge of audio since 1936, pushing back the boundaries of performance with continuous innovation. In 1953, the QUAD II valve amplifier set 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, planar magnetic headphones and a range of solid-state audio electronics that fuse high-end performance with elegant, versatile design. 89 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'.

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