



HEADPHONE OF THE YEAR Warwick Acoustics BRAVURA

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The BRAVURA is the result of three years development into Warwick Acoustics' unique HPEL (High-Precision Electrostatic Laminate) drive unit, the core of Warwick's transducer system for its headphones. It's designed as a direct, drop-in replacement for the Sonoma M1 Headphones, so those with the original matching Sonoma M1 Amp can simply buy a new pair of BRAVURAs. It's also available as a complete kit, including the Sonoma Amp.

In addition to developing a new drive unit that lowers distortion, increases maximum sound pressure levels and widens the bandwidth of the headphone itself, BRAVURA uses a new headband and revised cabling. The former helps a lot, because the BRAVURA feels less 'clumpy' than before, but the latter helps a hell of a lot; the older model's cable system was prone to 'touch it, you hear it' effects.

In considering this an evolution of the M1, Alan Sircom said, "The BRAVURA treads lightly over the same ground, benefitting from that subtle DSP; that 'modified pseudo-diffuse field' frequency response curve, which already created a remarkably natural presentation. Having heard what the Sonoma M1 can do, this was the key 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' part of the overall performance and remains unchanged between Sonoma M1 Headphone and BRAVURA. This yields an even greater consistency to a system that is already inherently consistent, but the combination of BRAVURA and the DSP on the Sonoma M1 Amp has an additional level of clarity and tonal precision that most other headphone systems fail to get close to achieving." He also felt that, "The BRAVURA nails this low frequency aspect. There's close to an octave more depth to this headphone compared to its predecessor." Adding that "Undistorted low frequencies are going to be something of a new thing for many listeners."

Most importantly, Alan felt that, "There's a sense of 'totality' or especially a 'gestalt' where the process of scrutinising individual components of the sound are swept aside by the whole." +

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