



## Siltech

### C1 line-stage preampLifier

Reviewed in Issue **78**



It's not valve-like. It's remarkably quiet in use (you could whack the gain up and put your ears to the speakers and hear almost no noise at all) and really, really accurate."

**B**est known for its high-performance cables, Siltech also makes the SAGA line of amplifiers, of which the C1 line-stage preamplifier was the first model to be launched. Siltech's take on the really good preamp is to build essentially a very traditional minimal hard-wired valve line preamp inside a very advanced logic controlled and battery powered chassis. It uses a quartet of new old stock of a little-known ECC86 valve that was only manufactured for a few years at the end of the golden age of tubes, point-to-point wired with monocrystal cables, and there are the absolute minimum of components in the signal path.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt that, "It's not valve-like. It's remarkably quiet in use (you could whack the gain up and put your ear to the speakers and hear almost no noise at all) and really, really accurate." He added, "You find yourself drawing attention to aspects of the sound that you then find attribute to other parts of the chain; the thinness of a source, the topky power amp, even the puffy sound of a capacitive cable. But when the system works properly, the C1 simply vanishes. It's like a passive preamplifier with gain." and concluded that the C1, "is different; it's almost the traditional goal of 'straight wire with gain', even though it uses valves at its heart." +

