

Eternal-Arts DP

TUBE FIRE

„And from the silent chamber only penetrates the last trace of a little light,“ Ludwig Uhland writes in his poem „Die Geisterkeller.“ How nice that EternalArts sparked veritable sonic fireworks instead.

EternalArts
by Dr. Burkhardt Schwabe



Written by Fritz I. Schwertfeger

It is a happy coincidence that in reality, the renaissance of the glowing tubes is making a marked progress. And if engineers of the calibre of Dr. Schwäbe start combining tube circuits - produced at the height of their development - with the latest technology, the result is a perfect symbiosis of the classic and the modern. Hi-fi enthusiasts simply cannot let go of certain things. Not even if this adherence is considered a pure anachronism by many. And certainly not if modern network players promise more comfort and versatility,

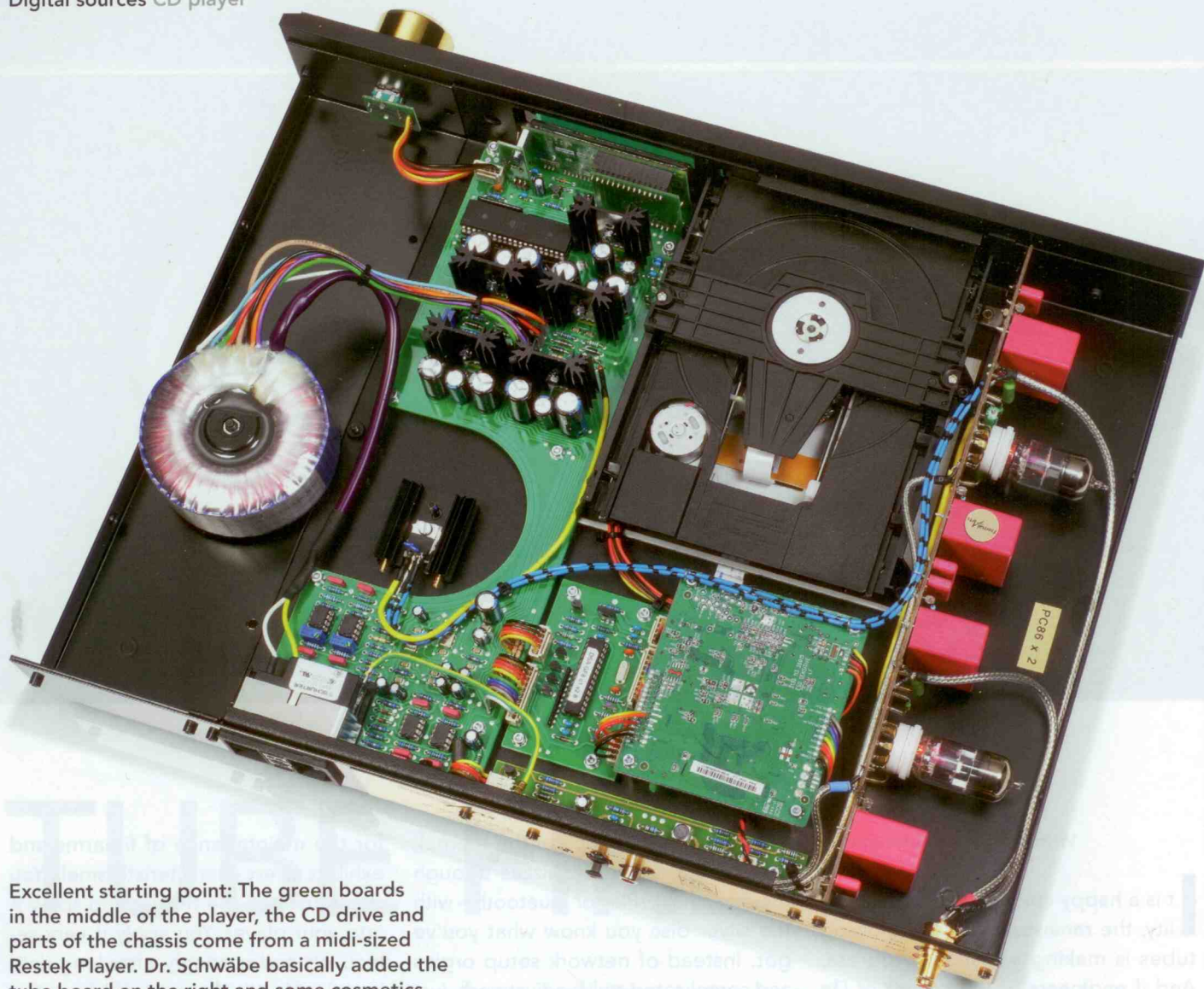
vinyl lures with a touch of the eternal, and musical content whizzes through the ether via AirPlay or Bluetooth - with the silver disc you know what you've got. Instead of network setup orgies and complicated stylus adjustment, just sit back and listen - enjoying music can be so easy. And in case you need proof for this information, a visit to Johannes Maier's office might help. His face will immediately show a comforting smile if you reveal that, last weekend, all the moving parts of the Japanese high-class CD player at your home received a Ballistol treatment - a high quality, very thin oil that was originally formulated

for the maintenance of firearms and exhibits a very characteristic smell. You don't just pull the trigger and spray it into your player. You apply it very selectively and sparingly, after long deliberation, putting just the right amount in just the right places.

It's exactly the attention to detail that often makes the difference. The same holds true with Dr. Burkhardt Schwäbe, EternalArts' development engineer and mastermind. A tireless perfectionist and avowed high-ender with a strong penchant for tubes, Dr. Schwäbe used to establish ambitious HiFi with traditional German manu- >

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Excellent starting point: The green boards in the middle of the player, the CD drive and parts of the chassis come from a midi-sized Restek Player. Dr. Schwäbe basically added the tube board on the right and some cosmetics.

facturers Grundig. Then, Dr. Schwäbe's creations were produced on an industrial scale under the name of FineArts, while today they are mostly made by hand in the corresponding quality. To find a really high-quality CD player in this day and age is hard enough. It becomes even more difficult if you're looking for a proven high-end player: quality craftsmanship, elegant appearance, equipped with an exclusive tube output stage. Fortunately, we are able to refer you to EternalArts' Tube Digital Player DP. At 3,500 euros, its price is not exactly chicken feed, but compared to other EternalArts creations it is pleasantly low. Sound quality, on the other hand, is exactly at the opposite end of the scale. To achieve this objective, Dr. Schwäbe arranged cooperation with renowned manufacturers Restek. This definitely makes sense, since EternalArts is too small to invest millions in

the development of technologies that can be provided in convincing form by Restek. One look inside makes it evident that this player doesn't want to have anything to do with mass-products. And this is exactly where the philosophy of EternalArts comes to light - to distinguish and distance themselves from the majority of their competitors by huge demands in the selection and quality of the components used. As far as the eye can see: nothing but fine materials and appealing design; things you'll rarely find in large-series products. The front panel is made of acrylic glass, the enclosure powder-coated, and the high-gloss black hood made of sheet steel. A fine-meshed grille on the left-hand side provides a view of the tubes. It's nice to be able to watch others at work for a change. On the rear of the player you will find, next to the asymmetrical output, two digital

(coax / optical) output jacks. Everything that can't be produced in-house is supplied by specialised companies. The player is then manually assembled to a perfect product at their own production facility. EternalArts drew on proven, high-quality components such as Philips drives and fully stocked Restek boards. The boards are fitted with low-noise, high-tech Burr Brown 1792 D/A converters (24-bit / 192kHz). Finished in bright red signal colour, even the expensive film capacitors made by Wima know how to please. The large ones are for filtering the supply voltages, while the small ones provide signal coupling. Though magnetically shielded, the toroidal transformer was relocated and kept away from sensitive components in order to increase the signal to noise ratio.

The slightly phalanx of voltage regulators supporting a further stabiliser is

