

Nokturne Audio and Lejonklou HiFi introduce SINGularity mono block MC phono stage \$42,700 pr

sin·gu·lar·i·ty

/,siŋggyə'lerədē/

noun

1. the state, fact, quality, or condition of being singular.
synonyms: uniqueness, distinctiveness
2. a point at which a function takes an infinite value.

SINGularity

sing·u·lar·i·ty

/,siŋggyə'lerədē/

A mono block Moving Coil phono stage, shrouded in purest copper, which allows no note, no harmonic, no rhythmic variation, no expression, phrasing or style of the musicians to escape, but instead captures them all and passes them to the preamp to present the truth and beauty of musical reproduction at a level previously unattainable.

The Lejonkou HiFi SINGularity is a work of art, extreme precision and musical passion from the mind, heart and hands of Fredrik Lejonklou, Swedish Hi-Fi designer and manufacturer for over 13 years. Fredrik's creation of the Lejonklou HiFi SINGularity was an attempt to achieve perfection in the amplification and equalization of the fragile musical signal retrieved from the groove by a low output moving coil cartridge. While we acknowledge that perfection is not attainable in the physical world, striving for it can allow one to reach greater heights, which we believe SINGularity deftly demonstrates.

It is not generally realized how important and difficult the job of a moving coil phono stage is. It is required to accept a delicate signal of a few tenths of a millivolt, amplify it with a gain approximately three times that of a typical power amp, while also re-equalizing the signal to achieve the original response from the mastering tape. To accomplish this exquisitely requires tremendous effort to keep the original signal intact, a goal that is often overlooked in the attempt to offer the flexibility of adjustable loading, gain and multiple switchable inputs.

In designing the SINGularity Fredrik decided to take the basics of a design that starts with a very sensitive first stage with 62dB gain, that he has been experimenting with for over seven years, and to see absolutely how far he could push it. Final gain is 71dB, allowing use with even the lowest output MC cartridges. The most obvious expression of this attempt at perfection is the casework as it is made entirely of copper. But not just any copper, 100% pure copper. It is CNC machined, a difficult task because of the softness of pure copper and its quality of quick heat absorption, requiring multiple careful, time-consuming and expensive machine and hand operations. This includes engraving the LEJONKLOU brand on the front and SINGularity, IN and OUT markings and serial number on the back. After final assembly the casework is finished using a very fine media blasting technique that gives the SINGularity a beautiful, glowing satin finish.

Then the internals: customized dual Swiss SMPS (Switch Mode Power Supply), one for the positive rail and one for the negative for maximum performance, Lejonklou designed multi-layer circuit boards made in pairs in Germany, for precision and because they degrade if not soldered relatively quickly, and parts chosen to tolerances as tight as 12 *thousandths* of a percent! (One part required testing 1000 pieces to find 12 that were acceptable.) As in all Lejonklou products, EVERY single component is listened to in the design stage to find the best part (manufacturer, series, value) and the most musical orientation. This includes orientation of internal ground wires, fuses, resistors, etc.

When you use components and circuits of this precision (where even layer spacing is optimized to tune the circuit) you cannot use standard flow solder techniques, as the heat of the solder bath will alter component parameters. So each SINGularity circuit board is hand assembled and hand soldered by Fredrik Lejonklou personally – a process that takes one week for each board. Fredrik also does final assembly and tuning for a true artisan piece. All this to attain the highest level of musical engagement and enjoyment of the signal in engraved in the record groove. The performance allows insight to the performer's intent that is unparalleled. SINGularity, a truly singular musical experience.

