

Lejonklou HiFi Giella Π 1.2 Headphone Amp



Giella Π 1.2 was designed to be the most musical headphone amp available and to drive *any* dynamic headphone. It has over 5 times the voltage output at 20Hz into 32 Ohms that the original (now discontinued) Giella had. As such it is a Lejonklou Reference level product. It is exceptionally musical and dynamic, making headphone listening so enjoyable as to even convert non-headphone music lovers. The Giella Π uses Fredrik's Level 2 circuit design, first seen in the SINGularity and then in the Entity MC phono stages. This circuit has lots of gain and very low noise, giving it great flexibility but requiring careful tuning. It is also housed in a new compact case that was designed by Fredrik. The new case is 30mm longer than the previous compact case and is more robust with thicker aluminum panels and a higher quality finish. A completely analog product is constructed in this case, the first Lejonklou unit using a volume pot (a specifically chosen Alps Blue Velvet unit) and a knob. Feeling that a headphone amp didn't need remote control, and designing for only one input, allowed the removal of any digital circuitry to handle remote commands. This allowed for a very clean and simple, yet powerfully musical design. The Giella Π also has a pair of volume controlled RCA outputs that are muted when headphones are plugged into the back panel 1/4" jack. This allows it to act as a preamp in a system with a single source driving both headphones and a power amp. As a preamp it should not be underestimated, as it is musically competitive with preamps easily 50% more expensive!

I can't leave the Giella Π without mentioning that it is the first Lejonklou product with a bit of bling! (Although not a lot of it.) The volume knob was made about the thickness of a pencil so as to not dominate the front panel, and this required it to be long so you could get a grip on it. So Fredrik came up with a very cool solution. The knob is made out of silver with a tiny, brilliant cut, cubic zirconia inset as a position indicator. They are custom made by Fredrik's mother, Kerstin Ohlin Lejonklou, a famous Swedish silversmith. All in the family and very snazzy looking.