



**SIMPLE, BUT SMART:** The toggle switch between the Neutrik headphone socket and the volume control allows to select either line input 1 or 2. If required, two RCA sockets can also be used as preamp output.

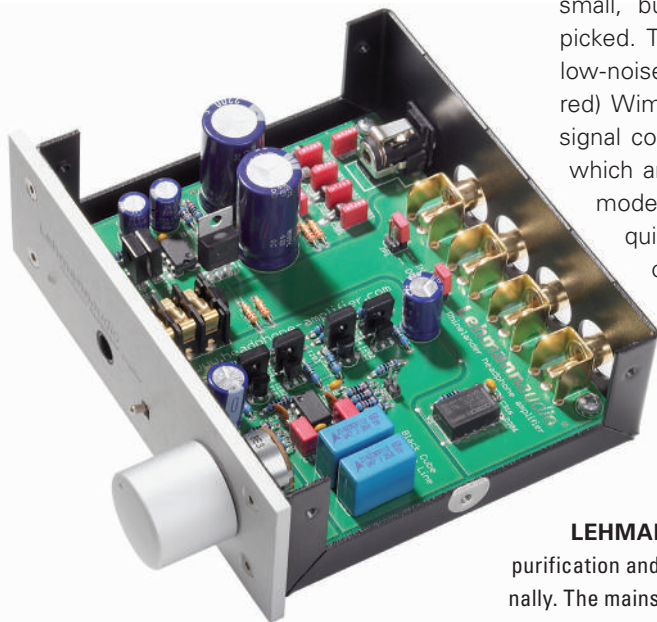
## LEHMANN AUDIO RHINELANDER 370 EURO

The Linear, the Rhinelander's bigger and more expensive sibling, has a truly legendary reputation. However, the lavishness of the Linear was dispensed with in the case of the Rhinelander. Company owner and sound engineer Norbert Lehmann accepted the challenge to design a gem with an exceptionally high-class sound for a tighter budget and with smaller dimensions. The front

panel looks plain and tidy and without much secret-mongering, the toggle switch located in the centre activates a relay to select between two line inputs. Or to switch to a pre out mode. Jumper contacts allow to reconfigure two of the RCA sockets as outputs, enabling the Rhinelander to serve as a preamp for a single source and one power amplifier. The volume potentiometer looks pretty small, but is, by all accounts, hand-picked. The input stage features extra low-noise ICs. Sound-neutral (blue and red) Wima film capacitors are used as signal couplers. The output transistors which are driven in Class A operation mode, meaning at a very high quiescent current, do not only convince with sheer power, but also because their gain can be adjusted to headphones of different loudness (6 and 20 decibels boost). Complex impedances do not bully the

Rhinelander, either. For it has no negative feedback at all, hence a load-induced time-displaced output signal can hardly disconcert the subtle harmonic distortion spectrum.

The four dynamic headphones of the test panel were no problem for the Lehmann: With downright stoical determination it was keeping the diaphragms in a musically appropriate motion, producing an energetic, contoured and yet delicate sound. Consequently the Rhinelander left Creek's OBH 21 (12/10, 300 EUR) out in the rain just like the V-CAN II from above, and only the Beyerdynamic A 1 (12/10, 990 EUR) could rein its steep rise – hats off!



**LEHMANN'S MINI:** Rectification, current purification and regulation are all performed internally. The mains transformer has been outsourced.

### PROFILE

LEHMANN AUDIO RHINELANDER	
Distributor	Lehmannaudio +49 (0) 22 02 / 28 06 24 0
www.	lehmannaudio.de
List price	370 Euro
Dimensions W x H x D	13,5 x 4,7 x 11 cm (5.3 x 1.8 x 4.3 in.)
Weight	600 g (1.32 lbs)

### CONNECTIONS

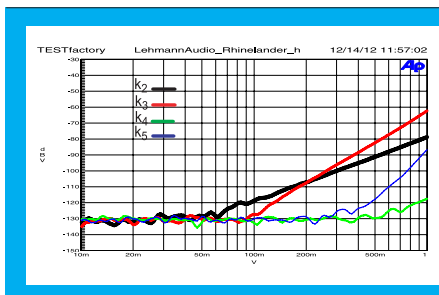
High level RCA / XLR	2 / –
Digital inputs	–
USB input	–
Pre Out	1 selectable via jumper
Headphone input output	1 (3.5 6.3 mm mini jack)
Special characteristics	Single source preamp

### AUDIOGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Powerful and spirited, epic midrange colours – a beautiful wolf in sheep's clothing.</li> <li>➖</li> </ul>
Sound line in	95
Sound headphone out	95
Features	very good
Operation	very good
Workmanship	excellent

**RUBIC SOUNDVERDICT 95 POINTS**  
**PRICE/PERFORMANCE OUTSTANDING**

## MEASURING LAB



With an output impedance of 5.7 ohms the Rhinelander can handle any headphone you can think of. The otherwise dead straight frequency response shows a gentle roll-off at the extreme ends which is sonically irrelevant (or at best positive). The altogether very favourable distortion spectrum shows a dominating k3 at higher outputs, which usually produces a dynamic impression.