

Pro-ject's impressive perspective

Pro-ject 2 Xperience £500

TURNTABLE

↑ FOR

Brilliantly musical sound; pleasingly substantial build quality; easy to assemble (if you're confident)

↓ AGAINST

That price doesn't include a cartridge

... VERDICT

A £500 turntable generally wipes the floor with a £500 CD player – this does so more comprehensively than most



THE ACRYLIC/PERSPEX turntable is increasingly ubiquitous – several makers now offer see-through record players. As well as this one, Pro-ject has the more expensive Perspective and the pricier-yet RPM9, with its variants. But with technology so elderly, it's nice to ring the changes.

Like any mid-priced deck worth its self-levelling spiked feet, this Pro-ject can't be assembled in just a couple of minutes – the number of tiny tools and the protective gloves in the box tell you as much.

It's not dreadfully complex, though, and can be set up by one person in under half an hour.

That's assuming you've sorted out buying a suitable cartridge, of course, because Pro-ject doesn't supply one (though it does offer you a 25 percent discount on various Ortofon products). We fitted a Goldring 1042 (£143), which offers an appropriate level of performance, to the carbon-fibre arm.

With James Brown's *The Payback* on the platter and the record clamp firmly attached, the Pro-ject does all the things a decent turntable should: timing and tempo are effortlessly organic, low frequencies are swift and fluid, while voices sound as natural and immediate as can be. All detail

available is retrieved, described and integrated with no fuss. A switch to the more testing *Babe, I'm On Fire* from Nick Cave reveals a superbly live sound, brimming with musicality and relentless drive.

Only a very accomplished record player can provoke an outbreak of syncopated movement among the reviewing team – and, while it's not an image you might wish to dwell on, the Pro-ject 2 Xperience induced an uninhibited flurry of rug-cutting in our listening rooms. Believe us, praise doesn't come much higher.



Fashionably clear about the base, this Pro-ject is a turntable that's able to turn heads

ALSO CONSIDER

Clearaudio Emotion

£655 ★★★★★ July 2004
2004 Product of the Year, and the price includes a cartridge

Audio Note TT1

£900 ★★★★★ November 2001
Talented package that delivers a great all-round performance