

PJ 25



Pro-Ject Perspective

Clear perspective

Pro-Ject turntables – manufactured in Litovel, just outside Prague, and designed in Vienna and Britain – have, over the past 50 years, established a range of turntables designed to fulfil the needs of all audiophiles. The basic model – the Pro-Ject 0.5 – established the company's credentials around ten years ago and the Pro-Ject Perspective stands at the top of the current range.

The Perspective has some very interesting technical features and, I suspect, borrowed some inspiration from the turntable designs of John Michell – the Michell Gyro Dec features the same unusual drive belt arrangement as the Perspective, and also features a aluminium sub-chassis suspended in an slab of acrylic.

Speed control

Three dedicated motors are available for the Perspective – 33.3 and 45rpm motors being supplied with the turntable, while an optional 78rpm motor is also available. To change speeds you simply swap the entire motor – they are secured to the plinth with a finger-screw.

Borrowing a John Michell idea, the Perspective's drive belt wraps around the entire circumference of the platter – the other turntables in our test all used a smaller diameter hub mounted beneath the

platter. This method of belt location is claimed to be quieter and more controlled, allowing for significant improvements in sound quality.

The Perspective's platter is manufactured from recycled vinyl records, which are laminated together and machined to form a flat platform. This turntable was the only test unit that came with a screw-threaded central spindle, allowing the supplied clamp to be screwed down onto the record – thus keeping the combined mass of platter and disc stable.

The tone arm provided with the table is the Pro-Ject 0.9, a solid-looking straight-arm with tubular aluminium design. An upgraded Goldring moving magnet cartridge is supplied as standard in New Zealand.

Setting up the Perspective was simple and straightforward, table levelling being made easy by adjustable screws on the legs and a built-in spirit level.

Zap factor

The moment the Perspective spun into the opening sequence of Frank Zappa's Peaches en Regalia I knew I was in for something special.

With beautifully figured sound staging, the Perspective's abilities were immediately impressive and it handled the changing instruments and time signatures on the track with breathtaking, almost nonchalant ease.

For those who still believe that the CD provides the best music reproduction, the Perspective would be a real ear-opener – clear, brilliant and neutral toned, it effortlessly romped through a series of testing tracks ranging from Penderecki's Kosmogonia to Karajan's electrifying 1962 DG recording of Beethoven's Ninth.

Well detailed and defined, with a gloriously weighty sound, the Perspective produces a

“The Perspective's platter is manufactured from recycled vinyl records!”

clearly defined soundstage, which is most convincing.

On the downside, it can also quickly show up harshly mastered records, but it does this without producing the digital 'glare' which is too often the case with CDs.

That all this is available at such a relatively small price is amazing – a genuine wet dream for audiophiles everywhere. I don't find it at all surprising that Pro-Ject turntables have proved so popular both here and in Australia. ▶

Tone Verdict

Pro-Ject Perspective
\$2099 including MM cartridge

Pros
Hi-tech looks
Strong engineering
Stable sound reproduction
Hi-fi performance at a low-fi price

Cons
Don't get any greasy fingermarks on the acrylic plinth

Summary
It doesn't matter what your musical tastes run to – Limp Bizkit or Sibelius – you won't be disappointed with the the Pro-Ject Perspective. A simple cartridge upgrade would allow the Perspective to soar to even greater musical heights.

Available from International Dynamics, PO Box 109-317, Newmarket, Auckland. Tel: 09 379 0179, fax: 09 379 0279, email: enquiries@internationaldynamics.co.nz, website: www.internationaldynamics.co.nz

Tech specs

- Belt drive transcription turntable
- Speed 78/33.3/45rpm (with separate motors)
- Tone Arm Pro-Ject 9
- Dimensions (WxDxH) 462 x 160 x 365mm
- Weight 9.4kg