



Pro-Ject Debut Pro

WINNER
LOW COST TURNTABLE

Pro-Ject has become the most important player in low cost turntable manufacturer... and the Debut Pro is a perfect example of why that is the case. The brand has been making turntables since 1991 and the difference between entry-level turntables between then and now is profound.

While the plinth is made of MDF, it includes an anti-magnetic die-cast aluminium, precision balanced platter with a ring of thermoplastic elastomer. This features a notch for the record-label to rest in, and there's an optional puck available. The tonearm, too, is a new design with an aluminium inner layer and carbon fibre outer skin. The plinth sits on three damped, height-adjustable aluminium feet. Speed adjustment (33, 45 and 78rpm) is by a toggle switch instead of manually adjusting belt position. Finally, the Pro-Ject includes a 'Pick It Pro' moving magnet cartridge, which is a refinement of Ortofon's well-regarded 2M Red.

"What's most immediately striking about the sound of the Debut Pro," said Simon Lucas in our review, "is just how assuredly it handles the ebb and flow of the recording." It's also a surprisingly subtle, yet powerful player and is "more than capable of faithfully tracking the dynamic shifts. It understands power, all right – but it understands the low-level harmonic light and shade." Simon also felt that, "The low end is deep, detail-packed and acceptably sprightly, with rhythms and tempos given good, if not quite class-leading, levels of expression. It's similarly decisive at the opposite end, allowing treble sounds to bite and crunch without getting in any way unruly" concluding that, "Vinyl is a format that seems to lend itself to this sort of naturalistic timing, but not every record player is capable of giving it the sort of apparently effortless expression the Debut Pro can."

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