

Pro-ject's spin on LP to MP3

USB TURNTABLE
PRO-JECT
DEBUT III USB

★★★★★

£ 210

FOR

Winning sound, decent build and analogue-to-digital convenience

AGAINST

Not too much at this price

VERDICT

Copy your records digitally with a minimum of fuss, and enjoy sparkling analogue sound, too

Rip your records conveniently to your computer at high quality

VINYL MAN IS conflicted. He knows his favourite music sounds better on LP than on any other format, but he's tired of only being able to listen to records in the front room. Pro-ject, the long-player's friend, is here to save the day.

From LP to MP3 with ease

There are several methods of transferring precious vinyl LPs on to computer, but Pro-ject's latest variant on its superb Debut III turntable combines simplicity, great sound and affordability in one profoundly impressive package. All the Debut III's formidable

music-making ability is present and correct in the Debut III USB and, as the unit includes phono stage, it'll work with any amp.

Low frequencies are rich and resonant, integrate cleanly with the midrange above, and don't confuse warmth with languor like so many other budget designs do.

Great for fans of vinyl vocals

Vocalists are given every chance by the Pro-ject, which delivers voices packed with character and expression. The top of the frequency range is open and crisp, while timing is great, as are separation and focus.

Around the back, alongside the phono outputs and earthing post, the Debut III USB is sporting – hey! – a USB output. Buy or download some suitable software (we've found audacity.sourceforge.net to be a useful, intuitive programme – and free, too), join your computer

“Combines simplicity and great sound in a impressive package”

to the turntable using that aforementioned USB connection, and you're ready to transfer all that precious vinyl to your Mac or PC.

Unfortunately, nothing on the market yet can prevent the vinyl-to-PC process being a real-time-consuming task, but once your records are on your computer, they can be copied to CD or to an MP3 player as often as you like.

And, of course, you can compress the ribbons out of them, so that your ancient vinyl ends up sounding just like a modern recording.



ALSO
CONSIDER ?

ION/NUMARK
USB TURNTABLE
★★★★★

£100

February 2007
Another all-in-one solution, but not a patch on the Pro-ject in terms of sound quality

TERRATEC
iVINYL

★★★★★

£100

February 2007
Attach one end to your computer, and the other to your turntable for high-quality PC-to-MP3 recordings