



Pro-Ject RPM 1 Carbon **£325**

The distinctive, minimalist design of the Pro-Ject RPM 1 Carbon is available in striking red, white and black high gloss finishes. It will certainly add an air of modern elegance to any hi-fi setup and has a real feel of quality about it.

Sound quality

The sheer power and authority of the orchestra with the Borodin track is totally captivating – so much so that I am compelled to flip the LP over and listen to some of Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*. What strikes me most is the realism of the performance, and I almost jump out of my seat when the drum strikes and the trumpets blast. On balance, I feel the supplied Ortofon out-performs the Goldring reference cartridge.

By contrast, the driving techno rhythm in Laurent Garnier’s *Desireless* is tight and beautifully controlled, which confirms the great marriage of the tonearm and cartridge. Vocal growls in the recording are perfectly projected in front of the soundstage, demonstrating the genuine three-dimensionality of the performance that is so well rendered by the Pro-Ject and has many of the characteristics of the company’s more expensive turntable packages, which is quite an achievement ●

Make/model	Pro-Ject RPM 1 Carbon
Price	£325
Sound	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Build	★★★★★
Features	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★★★
	A modern and elegant turntable with a sound that’s close to its more upmarket decks
Key features	
Cartridge	Yes
Speed change	Manual
Drive	Belt
78rpm	No
USB output	No

WINNER

The top spot goes to Pro-Ject for the RPM 1 Carbon. It scores on both build and sound quality and is a lovely looking deck to boot. What’s more it comes fitted with the stunning Ortofon 2M Red cartridge, which makes this starter hi-fi deck the one to beat.

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★ **LIKE:** Excellent build quality and superb tonearm/cartridge combination

VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Nothing at the price

BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★ **WE SAY:** A modern and elegant design resulting in a superb-sounding turntable

FEATURES ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★