

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Pro-Ject RPM 9 Carbon Turntable

Carbon Dating

Neil Gader



The sonic performance of the RPM 9 Carbon is devilishly good. Backgrounds are jet black and softly tinted to the warmer end of the tonal spectrum. Its character is one of overarching balance across all criteria, a trait that makes LP reproduction sound elegantly composed and well nigh effortless. Imaging and sound-stage stability are excellent with a wide comfortable spread of images across the stage. String sections, winds, brass are all nicely differentiated from another and there's little to no image smearing.

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the absolute sound

The Pro-Ject was rock-solid at these moments, each note decaying unwaveringly into the deepest corners of the sound-space. *Presto* arpeggios were liquid and articulate, as well. Plus, there was an impressive sense of air and lift in the upper octaves. And equally and literally striking were the artist's percussive keyboard stabs, which were deep and authoritative. As these aggressively played passages built in intensity, the harmonic aura enveloping the soundboard and rippling the air around the concert grand was superb.

Type: Belt-driven turntable
Dimension: 17.4" x 7" x 12.8"
Weight: 24 lbs. + motor 4.5 lbs.
Prices: \$3000 with SuperPack



the RPM 9 Carbon is a worthy addition for the *long term*—it's got enough resolution and sheer musicality to ensure that audio upgrades elsewhere in the chain can be confidently purchased without fear of outdating the Pro-Ject. Without qualification, the RPM 9 Carbon is a terrific package, certain to give a great many lucky owners years of vinyl-spinning thrills. **tas**