

## Best turntable £800+

### Rega RP6/Exact £1000

What if you like the simplicity of the RP3 but want even greater performance? The answer is this RP6/Exact combination. Its visual similarity to the cheaper product might introduce some doubts about value for money. Right up until you start listening.

This is a fast and agile-sounding package that delivers loads of detail without emphasising the fact. There are obvious gains in transparency and definition over the cheaper RP3, though the sonic character of the two decks remains consistent.

In full flow, the RP6 is a magnificently engaging turntable that's as happy charging along to Michael Jackson's *Thriller* as it is delivering large-scale symphonies such as Holst's *Mars*.

The package's wide-ranging dynamics and sure-footed sense of rhythm make it a real treat to listen to. Tonally, things are even enough, and soundstaging is suitably precise.

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Most importantly, this Rega organises the mass of information it digs up into a musically entertaining whole. We've heard rivals that deliver similar amounts of information, but none that does it in such an attractive manner.

There are many engineering differences between the two Rega decks. The RP6's glass platter has a greater concentration of mass towards its rim, which increases inertia (so helping speed stability) without adding too much to the overall weight. Rega engineers have long felt excessive mass spoils sound quality.

#### Electronic speed change is a plus

Other upgrades include a precision-machined aluminium top plate that sits between the platter and the sub-platter, and the inclusion of an outboard power supply. This outboard supply also gives the RP6 an electronic speed change - something we're always happy to see.

The plinth and arm designs are much the same as the cheaper model, and none the worse for that. Both are well proven designs that have

been gently evolved over decades. You can buy the turntable without Rega's Exact moving magnet cartridge for £800, but we wouldn't. The package works so well that there's little gain by going mix and match.

Put it all together and the RP6/Exact package remains unbeaten at this price level and deserves yet another Best Buy Award.

#### Power is off-board

The separate power supply (not pictured) controls the speed of the deck electronically. It also makes the sound better.

