

T3 recommends...

## TOP PICKS TO GET ON THE VINYL LADDER

There's lots to think about when it comes to buying vinyl gear, so we'll make it easy!

You don't need a surfboard to ride the analogue wave, but these hand-picked components will certainly do the job. Whether you're looking for a lauded top-value turntable (it's astounding what you can get for less than £200!) or aspire to a record deck that belies its mid-range price tag, we've got you covered. Our chosen decks are thoroughbred performers, but if you really want to get the best from them, we've got a cracking phono-stage suggestion too. System upgraders should also note that we've got a cartridge here with your name on it, which is bang for buck unbeatable – a great next step after picking up these spinners. Now if you don't mind, we've got a stack of newly pressed vinyl to be getting on with...

### VALUE TURNTABLE

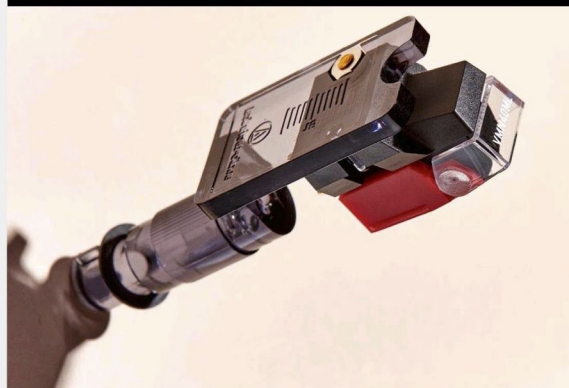


#### PRO-JECT PRIMARY

A stonking uncomplicated budget option from a heritage hi-fi brand, the Pro-Ject Primary is a bare-bones player with DNA derived from the brand's lauded Elemental II turntable. It lacks a phono stage, but has a mature-looking

matt finish and tracks lightly with a straight aluminium tonearm pre-configured for the supplied Ortofon OM5e MM cartridge. It sound lovely, and is simply superb value as a first turntable. **£189, [henley-audio.co.uk](http://henley-audio.co.uk)**

### CARTRIDGE



#### AUDIO-TECHNICA VM540ML CARTRIDGE

The VM540ML is a premium cartridge upgrade that features a low-distortion, accurate tracking MicroLine stylus that keeps its shape even after prolonged use. The housing, which also allows users to change styluses, features

a dual-magnet design that matches the left and right channels in the groove, giving your favourite records the sensational stereo imaging and channel separation they deserve. **£235, [eu.audio-technica.com](http://eu.audio-technica.com)**

### PHONO STAGE



#### ARCAM RPHONO PHONO STAGE

We love this compact phono stage. It supports both MM and MC cartridges, and offers wide gain control to match all types of amplifier or AV receiver. Once everything is set via dip switches, you can leave the box to weave

its magic on your music. This simplicity belies the sophisticated design of the power supply and componentry beneath the lid, which work to keep the sound as clean and true as possible. **£400, [arcam.co.uk](http://arcam.co.uk)**

### MID-RANGE TURNTABLE



#### REGA PLANAR 2

An understated design underscores the classic appeal of this perennially popular British turntable. The glossy laminated plinth and floating Optiwhite 10mm platter look distinctly upmarket. The deck lacks an

integrated phono stage, but boasts an excellent low-noise motor. The straight RB220 aluminium armtube comes with a great-sounding Carbon MM cartridge. It's brilliant for the money. **£375, [rega.co.uk](http://rega.co.uk)**

