


2006 Product of the Year Awards

Analog Sources of the Year

Pro-Ject RM 9.1 Turntable System

\$1499

sumikoaudio.net



Designed in Vienna and built at Pro-Ject's factory in the Czech Republic, this revised edition of the original RM9 turntable takes an already good design and improves on it, without raising the cost. The single-piece arm tube is now molded from carbon fiber and not only dissipates energy better than the older version but is also lighter and stiffer. The older model's rubber-plastic-felt feet have been replaced by massive machined aluminum cones that use a Sorbothane layer between the plinth and the foot. Though the plinth's size and shape haven't changed, a steel plate has been added to its underside to significantly increase mass and focus the dissipation of energy around a single point. Even the fit and finish of this new version makes it look like a more expensive turntable. The 9.1's sound is smooth yet detailed, the soundstage is wide, and the low end has authority. Images are stable, and transparency, transient quickness, and inner detail are all good. The RM-9.1 also has a surprising lack of groove and surface noise, and it's easy to listen to for hours without any aural fatigue, making its performance much closer to that of a costly rig than to an entry-level one. (Reviewed by Jim Hannon, Issue 164)