

# Ortofon

## Quintet Blue

**THE QUINTET BLUE** cartridge comes housed in a body that's made of a special acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) thermoplastic material, chosen for its lightweight and durable properties. Internally it packs fixed neodymium magnets and it uses an elliptical stylus of the nude type, whereby the whole stylus is a solid diamond that's bonded to the cantilever.

At 18mm, it has a tall body so it's worth checking that your arm can be adjusted to accommodate its height and VTA. Once at the right height, its rectangular body and threaded mounting holes make it easy to align, although its output pins could do with being more widely spaced to make wiring up a bit easier.

### Sound quality

A few bars into Little Dragon's *Nabuma Rubberband* reveals just how

unfussy the Blue is, as it presents all the detail in the track with real dynamism. It treads a fine line between being highly revealing and warm, making for a thoroughly engaging cartridge. Listening to Syd Barrett's *The Madcap Laughs*, lead guitar notes in the instrumental section sound sharp but never harsh, with chords struck firmly before reverberating with natural echo.

Its soundstage is expansive left to right and it also possesses a great deal of talent for bringing instruments within it to life. On Eric Robinson's World of Music version of *La Traviata* it really plays to how the piece moves from quiet passages to louder sections with great effect, pulling us into the music. Each instrument gets the space to let its notes grow, which it knits together into a cohesive whole, revealing a highly measured and neutral presentation.



Picking up the pace with REM's *Green* album shows it is equally capable when letting its hair down. *Turn You Inside-Out* makes a grand entrance that's full of impact and depth, while the guitars are cranked up with raucous energy, without becoming too hard edged when the volume heads north.

Bass, meanwhile, is incredibly well articulated and evenly presented without ever sounding overly emphasised or rolling off too early, making the Ortofon's presence and detail felt without becoming overwhelming on more demanding bass-heavy music. ●

### DETAILS

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### OUR VERDICT

