

Pro-Ject Essential II

Available from £189

Tested at £200



Best turntable up to £400, Awards 2013. Pro-Ject chalks up another success: the Essential II is yet another excellent budget turntable



"A great budget buy and a simple way to add vinyl playback to your hi-fi"

What Hi-Fi? Awards, 2013

Verdict

Pro-Ject has done it again. The Essential II is a frill-free entry-level product that gets all the basics spot-on. It's easy to set-up and even easier to enjoy. It makes listening to records fun, and we can't ask much more than that.



Turtables
Best turntable up to £400
Pro-Ject Essential II £209

What it is
It's a straightforward, no-frills record player from a company that's done as much as anyone to facilitate the current vinyl revival. Stripped back, but with high-quality components where it matters (motor, bearings, arm and cartridge particularly), the Essential II is the latest in a long line of frill-free, high-quality Pro-Ject turntables.

Why it won
Without hyperbole, this may well be the best pound-for-pound source of music in this whole magazine. The Essential II delivers rhythms crisply, has abundant drive and punch, and delivers low frequency with a depth and nimbleness that's strongly at odds with its pricetag. Dynamic, detailed and with timing to die for, this record player gets to the heart of the music.

Buy direct today:

What the team say

"What's perhaps most remarkable is the way the Essential II excels in those areas - such as scale and composure - where you'd least expect it to"

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TURNTABLES
BEST TURNTABLE UP TO £400
PRO-JECT ESSENTIAL II