



PHONO STAGE OF THE YEAR (UP TO £2,500) Gold Note PH-1000



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The Gold Note PH-1000 is a *piece de resistance* of electronic wizardry, a phono stage that attempts to provide the vinyl enthusiast with every possible means of matching both the cartridge on their turntable and the vinyl that it is spinning. This starts with loading, which covers the gamut of impedance, capacitance and gain that the cartridge works with. The PH-1000 offers no fewer than 12 impedance settings from 10 Ohms to 100kOhms with the option to add an external loading resistor if required, these are spread across both RCA and XLR inputs with eight (MC only) options on the latter. You can choose between six levels of capacitance if you decide to treat your MM (or stepped-up MC) to this level of preamplification quality, and regardless of which cartridge type you have there are seven levels of gain to choose from on top of the standard 65dB (MM 40dB).

It is just as comprehensive in its choice of equalisation settings; the PH-1000 has a surprising 18 preset EQ options alongside the option to set up four custom curves, which effectively means you have built in high quality tone control. All of which can be controlled from your armchair using the remote control and the informative front panel display panel.

Displaying a touch of British understatement about this Italian phono stage, Jason Kennedy felt that, “the PH-1000 delivered rather engaging results, not least because of its remarkable ability to extract bass from nearly every slab

of vinyl that the stylus traced.” He quickly added that, “It’s not easy for a phono stage to do this at the same time as delivering a dynamic and well-paced sound but this Gold Note is a natural; it manages to sound relaxed whilst producing oodles of detail and avoids the common pitfall of leaning on the mids and highs to create a sense of speed.” Jason wound up the review saying, “The sound it produces is very even handed and refined, the quality of electronics is clearly in the premium league, and this combined with the ability to change so many parameters on the fly makes it a fabulous piece of kit for vinyl lovers looking to get the best out of their collections.” +

Reviewed in Issue **196**

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