



PHONOSTAGE OF THE YEAR, UP TO £2,500

Chord Electronics Huei

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The small, colourful Huei phono stage from Chord Electronics is a labour of love by Manufacturing Director (and now Managing Director) Matthew Bartlett. Alongside the company's excellent new Ultima power amplifiers, Huei reasserts Chord Electronics' position as something more than just a DAC maker, and its distinctly attainable price puts the MM/MC stage firmly on the map for vinyl fans.

The Huei is deceptively well-equipped, with a colour-coded range of impedance and gain settings, a switchable MM and MC option and even a defeatable rumble filter, all in the same form factor as the Qutest DAC. Despite the bright array of colours, the Huei is very much a 'fit and forget' design, and doesn't include different equalisation curves, for example.

Alan Sircom felt the Huei to be a true LP-replaying star. "The Huei is all about the excitement, but without being either so brightly lit or so overly excitable and detailed that it leaves you cold," he said, adding that, "Its ability to dig deep into a record is outstanding and the Huei lets it do that with such aplomb and forthright accuracy, it's hard not to be captivated." +

Reviewed in Issue 183

