



# ★ **BEST PHONOSTAGE**

iFi ZEN

Reviewed: December 2020 issue.

If you want to play LP here's a small phono stage that costs just £149 yet can handle any pickup cartridge, even the most esoteric. And that's not all – it uses fully balanced circuits iFi say, to deliver a fully balanced output as an option to the usual phono sockets, giving stand-out dynamics.

On sound quality we found “Zen to be dry in its sound, detailed and revealing in the mid-band, and with unobtrusive treble. Rosella Caporale singing Time To Say Goodbye sounded distinct centre-stage, but the delivery was more revelatory than cuddly”.

From the balanced output however “the sound that emanated from our electrostatics was many steps up on that from the unbalanced phono socket outputs. It grew in dynamic stature and control – an unusual way to hear LP, with massive dynamics and supreme cleanliness. The low price barely equates to what's on offer here”.

Zen was different to all else. This is a phono stage that deserves our World Award for the best of 2020.

