



BEST UP TO £300

Rega RP1 £225

Rega likes things simple, and few decks are as simple as the company's new entry-level product, the RP1. The arm, main bearing and motor are all attached directly to a plain rectangular board that sits on three rubber feet.

Don't confuse the lack of frills for a lack of quality, though. Within the realm of budget turntables, the engineering content of RP1's main bearing and arm is top class. The arm is an economy version of the company's highly rated RB300 and retains much of the original design's precision feel. Rega has obviously thought hard about what's required in this part of the market. The RP1 comes fitted with

a decent Ortofon moving-magnet cartridge, and even the position of the counterweight is marked for ease of set-up. The sheer simplicity of the turntable means that there's little to do bar finding a level, rigid support, putting the platter in place and setting the arm bias.

The sound belies the price

The RP1's sound is remarkably assured. It simply doesn't sound like a budget turntable, such is the level of stability and composure. The deck's dynamic reach is impressive as is the level of detail it delivers. Upgrade the cartridge or take up the options Rega already has in place, and the performance would get even better. But, even as it stands, the RP1 package is the best budget record player we know.

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