

‘Particularly impressive was the crisp quality of the drum kit...’



ABOVE: An 8.6in tonearm employs one-piece carbon fibre arm pipe/headshell, fitted with an Ortofon 2M Silver cartridge. Both cork and felt platter mats are included

SURPRISINGLY CAPABLE

It can't have taken more me more than 15 minutes to unpack the 1 Xpression Carbon and get it up and running.



Bass notes stopped and started with more precision, revealing more of the tonal texture of bass instruments and providing better differentiation between low bass guitar notes and kick-drums.

With really dynamic LPs, such as Sheffield Lab's old direct-cuts, the little 1 Xpression Carbon sounded vivid, open and impressively 'stable'. The LAPO's 1985 recording of Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* under Erich Leinsdorf [LAB 24] sounded bold and full-blooded, the recording's explosive dynamics preserved surprisingly well by this modestly-priced player package.



Particularly impressive was the crisp and lifelike quality of the drum kit that was both explosive and delicate where appropriate, the cymbals possessed of lifelike splash and 'ring'.

HI-FI NEWS VERDICT

Good hi-fi doesn't have to cost a small fortune. The 1 Xpression Carbon is a cracking little package for the money. Music lovers on a tight budget really can't go wrong here. Moreover for vinyl virgins it's a doddle to get it up and running, since the cartridge is pre-installed and you only have to set the downforce and bias. Pay careful attention to siting and you'll be rewarded with surprisingly fine sound quality.

Sound Quality: 81%

