

EDITOR'S CHOICE HI-FI+'s TOP 100 PRODUCTS!

WIN!  
MEZE IN-EAR  
MONITORS  
WORTH  
£949!

# hi-fi+

ISSN 1465-5950  
8 2 >  
9 771465 595042

REPRODUCING THE RECORDED ARTS  
www.hifiplus.com

APRIL 2020 • 182

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



hi-fi+  
EDITOR'S  
CHOICE  
2020

ALL THE NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE 2020 FLORIDA AUDIO EXPO



## Gold Note

### PH-10 phono stage

Reviewed in Issue **153**



I expected something of an extreme, either soft-sounding or very harsh and hard-edged. In fact, I got neither of these things.”

**G**

old Note's PH-10 phono stage is a half-sized black or silver box with a knob, a small screen, and a coin-sized logo. Through a series of turns and pushes of that one knob, you can navigate a surprisingly deep and rich series of phono set-up and use options, far above the things you'd expect for the price. These include nine different load impedance options and four levels of output. You have two phono inputs, and the option of balanced or single-ended output, and there is even an optional valve power supply (not supplied) and a range of other upgrades including an EQ curve enhancer, gain stage enhancer, and an optional valve output stage. There's even a USB port for upgrades.

We felt that this wasn't the phono stage for the 'hands off' music lover, but the person who wants to know everything that's going on in their phono stage. The results, however, more than speak for themselves. "For some reason," said Nicholas Ripley, "I expected something of an extreme, either soft-sounding or very harsh and hard-edged. In fact, I got neither of these things. What I got instead was a fast, accurate, and very detailed phono stage that is whisper quiet." +

