

White light



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SOUND QUALITY

Dropping the stylus into the groove to play Phil Collins I Don't Care Any More, from a 180gm pressing of Hello I Must Be Going, to see how well the system handled Mr Collins hitting his drum kit gave me a nice surprise. The sound was big bodied, fluid and dynamic. It was larger chested than most budget turntables in fact, giving me a big expansive sound stage with plenty of apparent depth and real power in the drums. Sounding smooth and quite dark in tone the Digital sounded gorgeously analogue and wouldn't disappoint anyone, especially those who bought it wondering what LP was all about. They'd get a shock if they'd been listening to the thin and shaky sound of MP3s!

CONCLUSION

The Pro-ject Essential II Digital is quite an amazing package. It gave great results, having lush sound quality from its analogue output that I found thoroughly enjoyable and entirely in keeping with expectations from LP. There was definitely no digital in this bit of the Digital!

I could almost say that of the digital output too. It sounded pretty darn good when played through the ESS Sabre32 DAC within Oppo's BDP-105D Blu-ray player.

This Digital turntable from Pro-ject isn't an idea that will make anyone shudder – quite the reverse. It is one impressive player, whichever way you look at it.

PRO-JECT AUDIO ESSENTIAL II DIGITAL TURNTABLE £309



OUTSTANDING - amongst the best

VALUE - keenly priced

VERDICT

A great sounding budget turntable with fine on-board phono stage and useful digital output too. Impressive – a real bargain at the very low price.

FOR

- on-board phono stage
- hi-res digital output
- low price

AGAINST

- simple construction
- manual speed change
- no USB

<http://www.project-audio.com/>