



PHONO CARTRIDGE OF THE YEAR

Hana ML | Reviewed in Issue 172

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Hana’s two range-topping cartridges are the ML and MH. Despite being the best-of-breed from the Japanese brand, they are distinctly affordable. The difference between ML and MH is largely down to output, but on balance we preferred the ML on sound quality terms.

A high specification level at the price, the ML sits in a black Delrin body and brass base, features high-purity copper wire and other metal parts that are cryogenically treated, has a nude microline stylus tip on an aluminium cantilever, and uses alnico magnets. The on-paper difference is the high output design has a higher output and load impedance than the lower output model.

In our test of both models, we said, “the Hanas give you more than a glimpse of what the true masters have to offer, without the financial outlay. And yet, at no time does this sound like scraps from the very top table. The Hana ML in particular and the MH trailing close behind are every inch high-end super cartridges, only without the high prices.” We felt the difference between the two was that, “The MH is awesome, but in the right setting the ML is awesome-r!” and concluded that, “What separates these Hana cartridges from the top echelon of Japanese jewel cartridges is casing.” The ML is an audiophile treat!

