



Chord Electronics Huei

WINNER
PHONO STAGE



The Chord Electronics Huei is built to the same basic form factor as the company's Qutest DAC. It's a small rectangular box with the distinctive scalloped insets with combination controls and indicators. The RIAA-only, externally-powered, balanced and single-ended output Huei is microprocessor controlled, so switching between MM and MC, and impedance and gain, are all controlled by push-buttons.

The load itself is divided into individual gain and impedance settings. Huei includes twelve settings for impedance matching, including 47k ohm for MM and 30 ohm to 47k ohm for MC, and there are eight settings for gain (MM from 25dB to 35dB and MC from 48dB to 70dB). There's also a subsonic 'rumble' filter at -24dB per octave below 50Hz, using a Rausch Slope profile. The use of polychromatic controls does make set-up easy and fast compared to peering inside or underneath a product and adjusting tiny switches with a toothpick.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt that, "The Huei is all about the excitement, but without being either so brightly lit or so overly excitable and detailed that it leaves you cold." Adding that, "Basically, unless your collection of music came out of an elevator, there is usually some creative force at work wanting to convey a theme or two they consider exciting, and the Huei is perfectly optimised to extract that energy from the groove." He also praised its detail levels, saying, "it's hard not to be captivated. If knowledge is power, the Huei is a small, colourful information tank."

He concluded saying, "the Qutest and Huei look to be the start of a range of very small, but immensely strong, components from Chord Electronics. It's also not hard to see that this emerging collection of attainably priced, high-performance audio products coming to dominate that part of the audio world through the early years of the 2020s."

Reviewed in issue 183

Chord Electronics • www.chordelectronics.co.uk

“It's hard not to be captivated. If knowledge is power, the Huei is a small, colourful information tank.”

