



Hana SH Mk II

WINNER
ANALOGUE – CARTRIDGE

For its high-output SH Mk II (and low-output SL Mk II) moving-coil cartridges, Hana has upgraded the original designs from 2014 to the extent that they now share more in common with the company's reference Umami models than they do their predecessors.

While the nude diamond Shibata tip remains, it's now attached to a tapered (as opposed to straight) aluminium cantilever, reducing tip mass. The overall increased mass from 5g to 8.6g (mainly due to a brass top plate) enhances its compatibility with suitable tonearms, while its 2mV output, 47kΩ load impedance and 130Ω internal impedance (the same as before) means it will play ball with the majority of moving magnet phono inputs. The now broadly curved body is coated in a matte black elastomeric paint to provide better resonance control, too.

Closer to reference performance

The upgrades pay off. In his review, Alan Sircom confirms that the new SH is a lot closer in performance to the “exuberant” and more expensive Umami Red than the original SH, “slightly more mellifluous and warmer than the Red, but not so warm that it sounds lush or a little dull”. This is a very coherent cartridge, with excellent soundstaging and a Project Manager-level knack for organisation, plus standout midrange insight. Its balance of warmth, good sense of rhythm and flow, and dynamic power puts it at the head of its sub-£1,000 class.

Given a design tweak that would put your fingers further from the stylus during installation, the Hana SH Mk II would be nigh-on perfect.

Reviewed in Issue **241**

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