



Gold Note CD-5

WINNER

DIGITAL DISC REPLAY

Don't heed the naysayers – the Compact Disc is still alive, thriving, and a viable option more than 40 years since its invention. Gold Note clearly agrees and even envisions a future for the format, having introduced such a remarkable player to the market in the form of the CD-5. Indeed, a player like this is absolutely essential to maximise the CD's potential.

Spellbinding performance

The CD-5 conforms to Gold Note's now familiar half-width form factor and echoes the minimalist fascia design of its siblings. Its front panel is occupied by a crisp, monochrome display and a CD drawer that opens and closes swiftly and silently, while the neat, functional rear panel accommodates an array of useful connections – RCA and (particularly welcome on an 'entry-level'

player) XLR outputs, digital coaxial and optical outputs, a socket for connecting the optional external power supply unit (PSU-10 EVO), and a USB-C for firmware updates. The Gold Note CD-5 has been thoughtfully designed and is a pleasure to use, too.

It's also a real pleasure to listen to, as Chris Kelly discovered when he loaded up Harry Christophers and the Sixteen's 2016 release, 'Song of the Nativity'. "It was by turns subtle and majestic, and I sat spellbound through the nearly 74 minutes of music on this disc," he says, noting the player's extensive, depth soundstage and impressive musical intuition. It says a lot about a product's accomplishment when all a reviewer can criticise about it is the small size of its bundled remote control!

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