

Chord Company

PhonoARRAY turntable earthing system

ONE OF THE areas of a vinyl setup that's most sensitive to noise is the tiny signal that comes from the cartridge. This prompted Chord Company to develop its PhonoARRAY turntable earthing system.

Many such devices operate in parallel to avoid introducing filters into the signal path. However, as many turntables need to be earthed to the phono amplifier or preamp phono stage, a different approach is used with the PhonoARRAY where the turntable is earthed to the phono stage or preamp via the device. Inside the surprisingly heavy PhonoARRAY is a hand-wound, high-current series filter, which joins both terminals. There is also the company's ARAY system, which is connected in parallel and provides an effective double virtual earth

system for both the turntable and phono stage. Connections come via two high-quality 4mm speaker-style terminals accepting banana plugs and spade connectors. The PhonoARRAY is housed in a thick, machined aluminium billet case to provide good electrical and acoustic isolation. The case is resin-filled and rests on two lightweight decoupled isolation feet to reduce microphony. The PhonoARRAY is connected between the earth terminal of the turntable or tonearm and the earth terminal of the phono stage, and is supplied with a 500mm screened earth cable for use between the device and the phono input earth.

Open wide

I conduct 'before and after' listening tests using the PhonoARRAY between a Vertere MG-1 deck and valve phono



stage. The finalé of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, played by the National Symphony Orchestra, is more refined and effortless, while the soundstage feels wider and deeper.

For some jazz, I spin *Top Of My Feet* by the Lyder Roed Quintet from *Upside Down*. With the PhonoARRAY, this swinging piece comes across with a tighter and more tuneful bass, and greater reality in my listening room.

The PhonoARRAY appears to offer significant improvements to the sound quality and is highly recommended if you are looking to get the very best from a high-end vinyl replay setup. **NR**

► DETAILS

PRICE
£1,000 each
WEBSITE
chord.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

