



# Clearaudio Performance DC/TT5/Stradivari V2

## HIGHLY COMMENDED TURNTABLE

Clearaudio is renowned for its linear-tracking tonearms, and the TT5 represents the most economical way to experience one. It can be ordered pre-mounted on a Performance DC deck, which is designed around a core DC motor that features electronic speed selection (including 78rpm), and can be powered by an optional 12V linear PSU (£550) that proves its worth in sonic gold.

The TT5 forgoes any form of air bearing and instead glides along a meticulously polished glass rail, driven by the moving cartridge, which in this setup is a Stradivari V2 moving-coil design. It's crafted from long-aged ebony wood, produces a useful 0.6mV of output and, most importantly, is an inherently good match for the TT5.

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### A winning combination

The overall build and finish across the components is notably impressive, even at this level, although price awareness is no more apparent than when you listen to them in action. UNKLE's *Keys to the Kingdom*, buried at the edge of side A, is never the happiest-sounding, even with a well-aligned tangential arm and a decent stylus profile, but Ed Selley finds that the TT5 and co finally do the piece justice.

They sound consistently articulate and nimble, and possess, Ed says, “the combination of tonal realism and the space in which everything is presented is both believable and a heady mix of lushness and immediacy”. This is a setup that will undoubtedly win many admirers – and deserves to.

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