

The more you hear about Cambridge-based Blue Aura, the more you like them. You'll recall we featured their impressive entry-level Blackline v40 valve amp a while back. Well, they've just added this glorious-looking PG1 precision turntable to their range. Which means, along with their PS40 loudspeakers, they now offer a complete valve-driven audio system (with cables included) for less than £900.

I know, right.

The PG1 comes with everything you'd expect, and some nice touches that make this an ideal plug-and-play starter deck. The belt-driven aluminium platter makes not a whisper, leaving you to just enjoy the music. The Audio-Technica tonearm, pre-fitted with their AT3600L moving magnet cartridge, not only looks the part (many entry level tonearms would be more at home in the cutlery drawer), but it really delivers. We are by no means audiophiles, but whatever we chucked at it (Kraftwerk to the growling Carpenterisms of Dream Division on Polytechnic Youth) sounded not only crisp and sharp, but had a lovely warmth and depth to the bass.

There's some neat tricks here too. There's no fiddling with the belt to change from 45 to 33, it's all done at the flick of a rather stylish chrome switch. It also comes with Bluetooth connectivity, so it'll hook up to the aforementioned Blackline v40 amp or a standalone Bluetooth speaker. Most amps come with a perfectly listenable pre-amp built in these days, but here you get a switchable line/phono stage, giving you the option of adding a pre-amp (Blue Aura do one of those too, the PH1) or just banging it straight through your amp, like we have.

What's the catch? Price? Nope. £259. Put that alongside the go-to entry level Pro-Ject Debut Carbon (£349) or the Rega Planar 1 (£249), both of which require pre-amping and the PG1 is a steal.