

**GROUPTEST** TURNTABLES  
£1,500-£1,870



# Pro-Ject 6 PerspeX SB £1,800

The comprehensive specification of the Pro-Ject is reflected in its strong all-round performance

**DETAILS**

- PRODUCT**  
Pro-Ject  
6 PerspeX SB
- ORIGIN**  
Austria/Czech  
Republic
- TYPE**  
Belt-drive turntable
- WEIGHT**  
11kg
- DIMENSIONS**  
(WxHxD)  
460 x 183 x 365mm
- FEATURES**  
• 9in tonearm  
• Sandwich platter  
• AC motor
- DISTRIBUTOR**  
Henley Audio Ltd.

**P**ro-Ject's long-standing philosophy of seeking to do more than rivals at any given price point is reflected in the 6 PerspeX SB, which arrives in the test as by far the most ornate of the six turntables. The Austrian/Czech Republic offering is the only one in the group to have any form of suspension. The main plinth – made of Perspex unsurprisingly enough – supports a corian sub-chassis that contains the main bearing, platter and tonearm. The travel is rather limited, which means that setup is pretty straightforward but – in partnership with its excellent sorbothane damped feet – the 6

PerspeX SB is more resistant to outside interference than many here. The motor sits on the main plinth and has speed control on the top of it. It acts on a 'sandwich' platter, which is the only one here to be fitted with a clamp as standard. A variant of the company's long-running carbon fibre tonearm is fitted and Pro-Ject supplies no less than four counterweights to optimally balance a wide selection of cartridges. Some of my long-standing gripes with this arm remain; I dislike fitting the antiskate mount and the cueing lever will foul the bearing housing if fully raised. The arm itself is well made, however, and it works well with a wide selection of different cartridge options. You can also order it with the Pick-It MM cart pre-fitted should you so desire.

The Pro-Ject is one of the more expensive turntables in the group, but it looks and feels like a serious bit of kit that has considerable presence and the build is pretty good too. The supplied lid is also used on smaller Pro-Ject designs, which means it looks a bit odd when closed on the larger 6 PerspeX SB but it does lend some protection to the arm and cart.

**Sound quality**

Pro-Ject turntables in the past have largely been about flow rather than punch and the 6 PerspeX SB is no exception to the basic premise. The Cinematic Orchestra's *All That You Give* has a big, confident and

effortless presentation that manages to deliver scale, realism and detail in a well-judged combination. The tonal balance with the Audio-Technica cart is slightly more forward than some others here. It's never bright, but it lends a very engaging energy to the lead vocals – suggesting that a little care might need to be taken with some cartridge combinations.

This slight lift works wonders with Debbie Harry's vocals in *Hangin' On The Telephone* and she sounds vibrant, lifelike and wholly convincing. The more relaxed presentation that Pro-Ject tends to go in for is not a perfect match for the tempo of the music, though. Like a few other turntables here, the 6 PerspeX SB never sounds sluggish but neither

**It has a big, confident and effortless presentation with scale and detail**

does it really deliver the sort of urgency that this sort of music truly needs to engage. This naturally means that it delivers the Morcheeba offering with an assurance and joy that is one of the very best in the group. The Pro-Ject takes Edwards' vocals as the focus of the song and hangs everything around her in a way that is both convincing and engaging.

Slightly surprisingly given its decidedly relaxed nature, the Pro-Ject puts in a fine performance with Kraftwerk too. It's possible that the 126bpm time signature of *Aerodynamic* sits within the tempo that allows it to perform its trademark flow, but regardless the result is propulsive and engaging – pulling you into the music. This is helped in no small part by decent bass that you feel as well as hear, but that retains both control and a very commendable level of overall detail too ●



**Hi-Fi Choice**

**OUR VERDICT**

- SOUND QUALITY**  
★★★★★ **LIKE:** Big confident sound; excellent spec; decent value
- VALUE FOR MONEY**  
★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Not hugely exciting; fiddly arm
- BUILD QUALITY**  
★★★★★ **WE SAY:** The Pro-Ject is a capable, confident and impressive turntable that does a great deal for the asking price
- FEATURES**  
★★★★★

**OVERALL**

