

Minitest

Goldring Elektra

PRICE: £95 TELEPHONE: 01279 501111 WEBSITE: goldring.co.uk

► DETAILS

PRODUCT

Goldring Elektra

ORIGIN

Japan

TYPE

Moving magnet cartridge

WEIGHT

4.2g

FEATURES

Compliance: 16cu; tracking force: 1.5 - 2.5g, 2.0g recommended; low mass cantilever

DISTRIBUTOR

Armour Home

THE DIMINUTIVE GOLDRING

Elektra is the big brother to the well-known Elan cartridge. Although the Elektra's stylus assembly shares the same, striking magenta colour, the Elan has a spherical stylus and the Elektra is fitted with an elliptical one. The Elektra has a low-mass cantilever assembly and has been designed to be compatible with a wide range of tonearms and turntables. The correct connections to the four pins at the rear are indicated by the colour codes and the two pairs of pins for the left and right channels are marked with an L and R on the body.

The Elektra is a medium compliance cartridge and should therefore feel at home with a wide range of tonearms. It is the lightest of all the models reviewed here and I have to switch to using a lighter counterweight to achieve the correct tracking force.

A lightweight in mass it may be, but the Elektra certainly turns in a

heavyweight performance. After dropping the stylus onto the Handel LP, I am greeted with a rich and full sound. The bass response is really good and well extended. The imaging is also impressive and has superb detail, with all the components of the orchestra reproduced with great clarity. On occasion, I do find the strings a little brittle during the crescendos, but this does not really detract from a very commendable all-round performance.

Ear for detail

The Simon and Garfunkel presentation is close up and intimate

with nice detail and good imaging. Given the comment about a slight brittleness with strings, I expect to hear some sibilance with the vocals, but there really is hardly any.

The jazz of Pierre Gossez is realistic and clear with a good balance between the instruments with excellent definition. In fact, there is nothing in the performance that I can highlight as something to criticise ●

VERDICT

A full, dynamic and intimate performance with a great balance between different instruments

