



# Karan Acoustics Master Collection PHONOa phono stage

**WINNER**  
STANDOUT PRODUCT

**A** while ago, Karan Acoustics took the bold move of discontinuing its classic range of products to introduce a smaller, more up-market range of electronics. The range now consists of a preamplifier, stereo and mono power amplifier and phono stage in two extremely high grades of performance. The Master Collection PHONOa represents the best of the best in phono stage design.

A two-box fully balanced design with three single-ended stereo RCA and three balanced stereo XLR modules, the Master Collection PHONOa is extremely flexible in both cartridge matching and EQ settings. Both the main phono stage and its power supply have been extensively redesigned compared to previous designs, with for example, new isolation material that separates active traces for the audio signal, power supply and grounding much more effectively than before.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt that, “It’s almost surprising how good the Karan Master Collection PHONOa sounds, or – perhaps more accurately – how good your records and your cartridge sound when played through the Master Collection PHONOa.” Adding that, “the PHONOa is so beguiling, so musically adept and inviting that you start to reach for those pieces of music that have helped define you as a music-lover; the ones that hooked you even before audio got under your skin.”

He felt that, “every sonic parameter is reset to a new standard. Images are precise, stable and perfectly dimensioned. Dynamic range is in the ‘jump out of your seat’ level when called upon, but subtle and full of texture when playing more legato music.” And concluded by saying, “This is how music should sound through the very best of the best.”

*Reviewed in issue 209*

**Karan Acoustics • [www.karanacoustics.com](http://www.karanacoustics.com)**

“Every sonic parameter is reset to a new standard. Images are precise, stable and perfectly dimensioned.”

