



IN SIGHT

- 1 Tancast 8 plinth
- 2 Aluminium sub-chassis
- 3 RB330 tonearm
- 4 Ania moving-coil cartridge
- 5 Dual-layer glass platter



DETAILS

PRODUCT
Rega Planar 6

ORIGIN
UK

TYPE
Belt-drive turntable

WEIGHT
5.2kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
448 x 120 x 365mm

FEATURES

- 33 & 45rpm
- Lightweight foam core plinth
- RB330 tonearm
- Ania MC cartridge
- Neo PSU

DISTRIBUTOR
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Rega Planar 6 **£1,470**

Rega's turntable expertise needs no introduction, but does this mid-range package offer top value against rivals half its price?

As the most conspicuously hi-tech of the belt-drive models here, the Planar 6 arguably comes with the biggest reputation to defend. It's the first new Rega turntable to be constructed with an ultra-lightweight polyurethane foam core plinth weighing just 980g – less than half that of the superseded RP6. The foam is called Tancast 8 – developed for the aerospace industry – and is sandwiched between an exceptionally thin but extremely rigid high-pressure laminate.

Improvements over the RP6 include a single-piece, machined aluminium sub-platter, a new 24V motor hand tuned and matched to its Neo power supply and a custom drive pulley fitted with an upgraded drive belt.

The Neo is easily the most sophisticated PSU in the group and offers electronic speed change,

advanced anti-vibration control and user-adjustable electronic fine speed customisation only found on the RP10 until now. To enable this, it uses the RP10's DSP generator, which is built around a highly stable crystal, the signal from which is divided to the frequency needed to turn the platter at the selected speed and ensure exceptional pitch stability regardless of fluctuations in mains supply.

Rega's RB330 tonearm is fitted as standard and, in this instance, supplied with the company's Ania moving-coil cartridge (*HFC 452*). Of course, the tonearm works with a wide selection of other cartridge designs too, and VTA can be altered via spacers available from Rega.

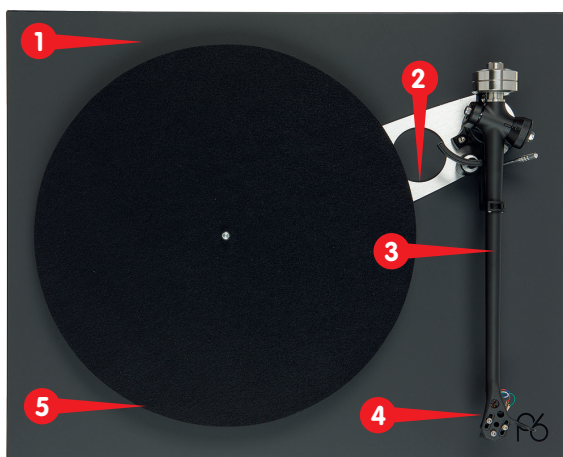
Sound quality

What marks the Planar 6 out from every other turntable in this group isn't sweeter treble, deeper bass, more mellifluous mids, tauter tempos or any other baseline hi-fi metric. It's stealth. The deck largely disappears and lets the music set the agenda, whatever you decide to play. It seems wholly unlikely at this reasonably priced end of the turntable market, but it really is very hard to pin a sonic fingerprint or signature sound on the lean and mean Rega.

The upshot is that, unlike the Technics and to some extent the NAD, it doesn't grab you by the lapels as soon as the stylus hits the groove, but instead draws you inexorably in as you begin to twig that, with the sunny, laidback Boz Scaggs cut, there's simply more going on – a lot

of it in the way of timbral textures, musical nuances, dynamic shading, ambient cues and sundry subtleties and intricacies fumbled or missed altogether by some of the other turntables here. It leads to a more rounded realism that makes music impactful through fascination and finesse as well as its ability to make your foot tap.

I think the words I'm searching for are coherence and cohesion. The way Oscar and Herbie interweave their flourishes at breakneck speed on *Naptown Blues* should be thrilling and are, but it's how the Rega paints the quieter moments with the finest of brushes that's so special. Meanwhile, genre shifts are nailed. The half-speed remaster of EBTG's *Amplified Heart* is fully realised with excellent stereo and clarity, while the interplay between double bass and synth on *Missing* seems effortlessly fluent and purposeful. Simply gorgeous ●



Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY ★★★★★ **LIKE:** Seductive pace, poise and musicality; smart design

VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★ **DISLIKE:** Nothing of any note

BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★ **WESAY:** You probably know how this goes – a stunning turntable for the money

FEATURES ★★★★★

OVERALL

