

■ Ortofon Quintet Blue £349

If you're after an affordable moving-coil cartridge, we haven't heard a better option than the Ortofon Quintet Blue.

We listen to Orff's *Carmina Burana* and the Ortofon responds with a clean and crisp presentation that brims with detail. The sound is stable and organised, capturing the bristling energy of the piece beautifully.

It handles the music's frantic dynamic swings with composure, refusing to harden-up even when provoked. We're

impressed by its refinement and ability to render treble textures.

The Blue is a secure tracker too at the recommended 2.3g. The presentation's even tonality and pleasing sense of life mean that we don't feel the need to play around with the tracking weight one bit.

We switch to Nirvana's *Nevermind* and the Ortofon responds with enthusiasm. Basslines are punched out with glee.

If you've always hankered after an MC cartridge, buy this one with confidence.



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AWARDS 2019

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