

Rega Jupiter CD player

Last month I wrote up Rega's new Planet CD player, sometimes called (unofficially) the Planet 2000 to distinguish it from the original Planet.

Now comes the new Rega Jupiter CD player. Same chassis, same top-loading design, but twice the price: \$1895 for the Jupiter vs \$950 for the Planet. The main differences are that the Jupiter has seven separate power supplies compared to the Planet's three, and uses two IC40 DAC chips in a dual-differential mode. As I noted last month, the IC40 chip is made exclusively for Rega by Wolfson Microelectronics, Ltd., of Edinburgh, Scotland.

"The IC40 DAC was designed to work optimally in a dual-differential mode," said Steve Lauerman of Lauerman Audio Imports, Rega's US distributor.

Fortunately, I had the Planet for a side-by-side comparison. (I used the

Mac gear and the speakers mentioned above.)

Building on the strengths of the Planet, the Jupiter provided a more powerful, more dynamic sound. In terms of dynamics, I doubt you can do better at any price. Not surprisingly, the dual DACs delivered superior low-level resolution compared to the Planet. There was more detail, but it was presented in a relaxed, natural way. The Jupiter was harmonically rich—Rega's sonic signature.

Is the Jupiter worth twice the price of the Planet?

Best thing to do is audition them side by side and draw your own conclusions. If you're buying the Rega Mira integrated, the Planet might provide all the resolution you need. If you're choosing a player for a system of megabuck separates, then the Jupiter might be more appropriate.

An outboard processor with upsampling might give you more ambience, more sense of space, more of the distinctive acoustical environment of each recording. But the Rega Jupiter offers a simple, compact one-box solution. It had outstanding dynamics—power supplies matter!—plus a rightness to its harmonic presentation matched by few digital components at any price.

"You know the thing about Rega products," said a fellow scribe: "Roy Gandy and his design team know how they want their gear to sound."

Maybe \$1895 is more than you want to spend on a player. Maybe the Planet is the bigger bargain. But the Jupiter shines in its own right, by Jove; I'm not sure any other player for less than \$3000 can top its overall performance. ☒



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