

SimplyPhono

As can be easily verified there's a renewed interest for vinyl in the hi-fi market. The Black Disk seems to catch the attention of a wider audience that the consolidated lovers it always could rely on.

Aware of this trend **Unison Research** decided to enhance its catalogue adding a new turntable+arm+cartridge system named **Giro** and to work on a new release of two of its standalone phono stages: **SimplyPhono** and **PhonoOne**.

The new **SimplyPhono** bears the same name and indeed shares the same appearance as its predecessors but thanks to a revisited circuitry and improved layout it exhibits noticeably better audio performances.

As its predecessor the new **SimplyPhono** is an all-tube phono preamplifier. All the stages work in pure class A and no global negative feedback neither local feedback is applied. It employs 4 ECC83/12AX7 double triode (versus the 3 ones used in the previous release of the unit).

The tubes are arranged so that the first couple of triodes acts in parallel as a maximum gain stage implementing a particular configuration named "ionic bias" in order to prevent the cathode self-polarizing circuit from introducing unwanted local reverse-effects and with improved performances as regards noise and distortion.

For the RIAA equalization network a completely passive solution has been chosen after some listening test. The use of strict tolerance resistors and hand picked, measured and selected capacitors ensures a precision of 0.1dB of the frequency response.

The equalization network is followed by a second gain stage direct coupled with a cathode follower output stage as an optimal solution in order to achieve the needed overall gain and a low output impedance.

Particular care has been put in the power supply stages.

In order to maximize the dynamic response of the unit a high value for the anodic supply has been chosen. A particular circuit using a series power mosfet and a precise voltage regulator ensures a stable low ripple supply voltage of more than 300V. A further filter feeds the second and output stages of both channel with a very stable voltage.

In order to minimize cross-talk and PSRR (power supply rejection ratio) in the first (and more tricky) gain stage a last couple of RC filters and a zener regulations has been implemented, one for each channel.

As usual for **Unison Research** technical staff, a great care has been dedicated to the design of the layout of the board. This is a key feature that is often undervalued but that can heavily affect the final result. A smart symmetrical design, outcome of a long dated knowledge, improved even more cross-talk and noise parameters.

As an example we can measure a huge improvement of cross-talk over all the audio spectrum with a reduction of 20dB at middle band frequencies.

With a gain that makes it suitable for all MM and medium to high level MC cartridges, with a noticeable improvement of sonic performances, with improved quality RCA connectors and input impedance variable setting the new **SimplyPhono** accentuates it already high value.

Technical characteristics

Valve complement:	4 x ECC83/12AX7
Amplification class:	pure class A
Negative feedback:	zero
Gain:	52dB approx.
RIAA:	passive 0.1dB tolerance
Input impedance:	47k Ω , 100 Ω , 50 Ω , 20 Ω 100pF
THD:	<0.3% @ 1kHz, 5mV input
SNR:	<-77dB @ 5mV input
Noise:	<0.6 μ V eq. input voltage, A-weighted
Maximum Output Voltage:	20Vrms @ 5% THD
Dimensions:	5.5in x 4.1in x 11.5in
Net weight:	6.75lbs