



CARTRIDGE OF THE YEAR Hana Umami Red



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Hana's reputation for fine-sounding moving coil cartridges began with some extremely good value models that offered a glimpse of the high-end without the high-end prices. But the likes of the Hana ML left people wondering what a high-end Hana design might sound like... and the Umami Red gives you the answer.

The Hana range is built by cartridge experts Excel Sound and the Umami Red features a sculpted Duralumin body with an ebony inlay, an open-air moving-coil generator sitting in an ear-shaped 'auricle', a boron cantilever with Hana's own microline stylus and a generator that uses a rare earth samarium/cobalt magnet with a square-plate permalloy armature and pure 30-micron copper wires. Or, put another way... high-end MC cartridge credentials.

In our test, Alan Sircom suggested that, "The Umami Red is that rare jewel in phono cartridges; a design that gives you both the sort of detail and precision of sound that presents whatever music you put on the platter with a laser-guided focus on the recording itself, and musical grace and passion." He concluded that, "The Hana ML and MH gets you glimpses of what a really good cartridge can do. The Umami Red gives you the complete picture... This is truly top-tier LP replay!" +

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