

PHONOSTAGES - THE BEST



Simaudio Moon LP5.3

\$1400

simaudio.com

A stellar performer, the Moon LP5.3 is quiet, transparent, tonally neutral, and capable of not only recreating a remarkable sense of the space an LP was recorded in, but also the subtlest interactions of the musicians who occupied it. The LP5.3 is flexible, too, with four levels of impedance loading, three for capacitance, three for gain, and both single-ended and balanced outputs. A wonderful unit that bridges entry-level and elite models. Reviewed by WG, Issue 180

Sutherland PhD

\$3000

acousticsounds.com

Sutherland's battery-powered PhD is so quiet that it takes awhile to get used to its sound, and it really changes the way one listens to records. But once you've adjusted to music emerging from a background of seemingly infinite space, depth, and purity, expect to hear "into" your records in a way unlike before. Beyond its silence, the PhD has a tube-like liquidity, terrific detail, wonderful dynamic nuance, and remarkable transparency. Reviewed by WG, Issue 144

Aesthetix Rhea

\$4000

musicalsurrroundings.com

With three inputs, variable cartridge loading, and front-panel display for gain and loading, the Rhea is the Swiss Army Knife of phono stages. The pure-tube design means that the noise level is highly dependent on the tubes. Its resemblance to Aesthetix' reference-quality Io phono stage is unmistakable: transient quickness and speed without etch, a feeling of effortlessness on crescendos, and a deep, layered soundstage. Moreover, the Rhea portrays instrumental timbres with palpability, naturalness, and richness of tone color unequalled at this price. Reviewed by RH, Issue 151 **TAS86**

	PRICE	TYPE
Simaudio LP3	\$499	Solid-State
Phonomena II	\$600	Solid-State
Nova Phonomena	\$999	S-S, Battery Powered
Sutherland PhD	\$1000	S-S, Battery Powered
Simaudio LP5.3	\$1400	Solid-State
Sutherland PhD	\$3000	S-S, Battery Powered
Aesthetix Rhea	\$4000	Tube

COMPARATIVE CHART