

Primare CD31



£1500

BEAUTY MIGHT, AS they say, be in the eye of the beholder, but we're mightily struck by the outward appearance of the CD31.

We've judged a fair bit of Primare equipment, and found it all to be decent, competitive value-for-money stuff with a consistent audio signature.

In this case, it's not the most immediate listen, but the CD31 is a subtle and insightful device that produces a big, well-defined soundstage and fine ambient detail. There's possibly less raw power to dynamic material than is ideal, but the CD31 communicates in spades without ever getting right up in your face. Switch to its balanced outputs and it's even

more impressive; sound separates yet further, making music easier to follow, and there's plenty more crunch and bite.

The Ramones' *Sheena Is A Punk Rocker* sounds genuinely insolent and packed with attitude. Things step on decisively in the dynamic area, too: there's greater attention to detail, better grip on transients and lovely definition. Voices become more natural as well.

The CD31 is well-made, impeccably finished, as well as being competitively priced and handsome. Sounds great, too.

→ VERDICT

Looks great, sounds great and won't be too fussy about partnering. Impressive

