



## XXL<sup>®</sup> Phono Pre Amp Ultra

stereoplay 12/2015

### stereoplay 12/2015 stereoplay Testresult

Sound Top Class	48/49 Points
Result good	69 Points
Price/performance	good



**The full name of Oehlbach's compact phono specialist is the XXL® Phono Preamp Ultra and stands out, in particular, through its simplicity.**

Newcomers to vinyl will not experience and difficulty with the installation, which is limited to plugging it in and choosing between moving coil pickup or cartridge. The latter is done with the help of a small slide switch at the rear, located between the very high-quality RCA jacks.

The XXL® Phono Preamp Ultra is supplied via an AC adapter, which shouldn't have any problem whatsoever with the power consumption of two SMD operational amplifiers. An internal control first serves to effectively help stabilise the operating voltage.

However, neither the amplifier itself nor the user manual gives that much detail, which means that the input resistance for MC systems remains a secret. Those who want to play safe are better off using scanners that are suitable for the 100 ohm „standard“ - which, although never defined as such, is generally accepted as the standard value.

## Sound Performance

In terms of sound, the Peamp Ultra does its job without any humming or much noise. This means it does, first of all, fulfil the actual function of a decent preamp.

Apart from that, the Oehlbach unit, available in black or silver finish, is one of those specialist devices that performs its tasks in an unremarkable and rock solid way in all respects, does not display any errors worth mentioning and therefore does not give cause for any complaint.

The Oehlbach is certainly well placed in combination with reasonably priced scanners

## Conclusion

Decent, easy-to-install preamp without any airs and graces or major features. It has a very sturdy enclosure, high-quality RCA jacks and a switch-on delay via relay.

**+SOUND: TOP CLASS**

**+PRICE/RATIO: GOOD**

