



TURNTABLE OF THE YEAR

Gold Note Valore 425 PLUS | Reviewed in Issue 168

Valore is Italian for ‘value’ and ‘worth’ (as in both a financial and a moral sense) and the 425 Plus is the uppermost of the two models in Gold Note’s Valore range. The price of the Valore 425 Plus depends on finish, with black MDF and Italian walnut plinths, as well as the transparent acrylic one we received for test. All three are 30mm thick. The choice of plinth colour also dictates the colour of the three feet and the 23mm thick platter itself: transparent lands you a clear acrylic platter and brushed aluminium feet (as tested), while the other finishes come with a matt black acrylic platter and all have a felt slipmat.

Just as the deck is perfectly pitched in terms of cartridge matching for the money, it’s also extremely well-matched in terms of the kind of system this turntable is likely to partner. In our test, we found that the Valore 425 Plus “is not one of those turntables that goes after stentorian bass and the sort of dynamic range you could use to disrupt SONAR. Instead, it’s a tidy, ordered, detailed, and – above all – quicksilver performer that acts from the midrange on out.” We concluded that “if your tastes run from World Music to Wagner, the Gold Note Valore 425 Plus is an excellent and inherently honest performer that doesn’t impose itself on the sound of LP.”

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