

Once you decide if you need the high or low gain settings and how you need to load your cartridge, it's pretty easy to get going. Just pay close attention on the rear panel, because there are three sets of RCA jacks, marked: In, Out and Load. If you do not plug anything in to the load jacks, you will have a standard 47k load. The owners manual says that you will be surprised at how many moving coil cartridges, even though they are rated for a 100 ohm loading will sound better at 47K. Keeping an open mind, I gave this a try, but none of my test cartridges provided me with this surprise!

Regardless, considering how easy it is to set loading, you should experiment away to find the perfect setting for your system!

What really impressed me was the sense of weight this tiny little preamp was able to throw around the room. Don't let the small size fool you, this is a serious phono preamp.

I was supplied with 100 ohm and 1000 ohm loading plugs that you attach at the back of the preamp. Take care with loading, inputs and outputs because the only downside of that nice compact box is that there is not a ton of real estate on the back panel. All use RCA plugs, so make sure before you start to play records, just to be safe! The low and high gain settings are also set on the rear panel, with jumpers similar to those on the hard drive of your computer. Again, functional not showy; nice touch.

The JLTi spent its time here in my second system and gave me the ability to use my Rega P9/RB1000 combination as well as the Oracle Delphi V/SME iv.Vi with seven different cartridges, ranging from about 100 dollars up to about 3500 dollars. Rest assured, you can expect good luck with whatever you mate it with.

Very Neutral Indeed

The JLTi is for now, the most neutral phono stage I have heard at this price point. I have been listening to quite a few things on the solid state and tubed side of the fence because I think that the \$2-3000 range is the sweet spot in terms of budget for a lot of music enthusiasts. (My other favorite is the ModWright 9.0 SWP) While it does not have that last tiny bit of air, bloom or whatever you would like to call it, the JLTi is not the least bit sterile or thin.

This preamp possesses a very nice airy sound and will not embellish the sound, yet it takes nothing away. Comparing the sound

of the new Crowded House album **Time On Earth** through the JLTi to my reference (the ASR Basis Exclusive), it held its own very well and did an incredible job with getting the spatial cues right. I noticed this a lot on anything that had a lot of really breathy vocals and harmonies, you could hear the space between the vocal tracks quite well, with a very natural sounding decay. Nothing forced, it was just right.

What really impressed me right from the beginning was the sense of weight this tiny little preamp was able to throw around the room. Don't let the small size fool you, this is a serious phono preamp. *(continued)*

