



Michell Apollo/Muse

HIGHLY COMMENDED
PHONO STAGE UNDER £5K



Built upon the final blueprint of the currently inactive Worcestershire-based Trichord, with its single-input, single-ended and external power supply design, are Michell's Apollo phono stage and Muse power supply. The duo is sold exclusively as a set, and are logical additions to the brand's range.

The Apollo operates in Class A at both the preamp and gain stages, with rectification achieved via a passive RIAA circuit, and each stage is controlled using feedback circuits for consistent performance. Both moving-magnet and moving-coil cartridges are supported, with a maximum available gain of 73dB ensuring compatibility with most designs. Meanwhile, a minimalist supply in the Apollo is powered by the Muse's low-noise toroidal transformer. The two robustly built boxes are connected via an ornate, custom cable made in collaboration with Chord Company.

Effortless insight

"There's almost nothing in the performance you can point to and confidently say is the Michell," says Ed Selley, who can rarely impart such praise upon products this affordable. That effortless transparency spans a wide bandwidth, too – bass and treble extension is admirable, as is the seamless way those frequencies integrate with the midrange. "The balance the duo strikes between energy and refinement is very well judged," Ed also finds.

What's more, even with a Vertere MG-1 turntable/Dark Sabre MM cartridge, the core sonic qualities of the Apollo and Muse are preserved when using lower gain settings. With a replacement to its evergreen Gyrodec coming soon, this is a time of great change for Michell. But, needless to say, Michell has done it again with Apollo/Muse – this combo is truly excellent.

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