

# Minitest

## Hana

EH

PRICE: £276 TELEPHONE: 01491 629629 WEBSITE: [airaudio.co.uk](http://airaudio.co.uk)

### DETAILS

#### PRODUCT

Hana EH

#### ORIGIN

Japan

#### TYPE

High-output moving-coil cartridge

#### FEATURES

Aluminium cantilever; plastic body; 2mV output

#### DISTRIBUTOR

Air Audio

**HANA MAY BE A** relatively new name, but parent company Excel has been making cartridges for a variety of manufacturers for decades. The EH is the high-output version of the more affordable of its two current models and is the only high-output moving-coil here. The coils are mated to an aluminium cantilever and elliptical stylus to generate an output of 2mV, which is the lowest in the test but not too far behind the Clearaudio.

### Space oddity

The Hana does without a threaded body which can make it fiddly to fit, although the deep mounts for the bolts and flat-sided body help alleviate this problem – the only slight oddity being that the stylus guard has to be removed to get the bolts in. The pins are well spaced and the 2g tracking force is easy enough to achieve in most arms, making the cartridge and its smart packaging look and feel well worth the price.



Sonically it delivers a performance that combines most of the virtues of the other models here with few obvious vices. The output, while lower than the group is perfectly sufficient into most moving-magnet stages. The EH balances a rich, detailed and refined presentation with impressive tonal accuracy. The rendition of Låpsley is emotionally engaging and has a sense of air and space that's unusual at the price.

Perhaps just as importantly, the Hana manages to sound fun as well.

Both the Little Feat and Fontän tracks have a simple, unapologetic sense of energy and joy to them that is a great pleasure to listen to. It might be slightly harder to fit and require a little more gain, but it's worth the effort as it rewards with an exceptional sonic performance ●

### VERDICT

Hard to fit, but an exceptionally capable and extremely keenly priced cartridge

