

Turntables

Tonearms

Phono Preamps

Cartridges

How To Buy Analog

EAR Acute CD Player



Finish options are aluminum (see below), chrome with chrome buttons (super cool look) and chrome with gold buttons (above)

- An absolute winner, a **monster** player that will set your heart racing!

Testimonials

EAR Acute CD Player - **The Absolute Sound Editor's Choice Award Winner!**

"[The Acute] was smooth in a way that does not suppress information or add euphony. It is blessedly neutral in its character and its reproduction of the human voice is quite simply excellent... What struck me then was the airy sweetness and extension of its high-frequency performance, entirely atypical for almost all digital players, and enchanting... Truth is, I like the unstressed quality of the top octaves here..."

- Harry Pearson, HP's Workshop, The Absolute Sound, Aug. & Oct. 2006

Positive Feedback Online's Writers' Choice Awards - for 2006

Another Giant Killer, or is it? If we assume "Giants" are expensive, this is a giant killer because of it's modest, by high end standards, price of \$5495. **This player bested two \$15k players and everything else I've heard.** No it's not affordable to those that don't save, but if you can save and want a terrific CD player, this is it. **This is the best CD player I've heard yet.** Had the Acute been around, I probably would have purchased a less expensive analog set up and simply committed myself to Redbook CDs. Oh, it doesn't play any of the "superior" formats-I'm devastated. Tube rolling allows you to get the sound you want, though I loved the stock tubes. No review forthcoming, though perhaps a purchase.

-Larry Cox, Positive Feedback Online

The highs are extraordinary for digital-extended, accurate, delicate, and oh so musical. The high band is **unsurpassed by any tubed digital source I've heard**, and may be superior to the best solid-state digital sources, at any price... The mids are more realistic, warmer, and fleshier than the best solid-state digital reproduction, at any price. The Acute has a superbly detailed, nuanced midband. The best solid-state is just as smooth and detailed, but less texturally accurate, and less involving. The Acute is intimate and colorful, while top solid-state is more snappy, yet more detached and bland. The Acute is swaggering and powerful... **I bought the review sample**, and it is now my CD player reference.

- Robert H. Levi, Positive Feedback Online ([read the review](#))

Overview

The new EAR Acute CD Player from brilliant audio engineer Tim de Paravicini is one of the most unique designs in the history of digital audio featuring a **specially designed transformer-coupled tube output stage**. Utilizing the highly regarded Wolfson 24bit/96k DAC combined with Tim's unbeatable analog output stage gives the Acute one the **sweetest, most engaging musical presentations available**. This player uses a pair of 6DJ8s (6922s) in the output stage, and with the many available tube swapping possibilities it allows users to match this player to their systems. This CD player also provides **enough gain to drive a power amplifier directly without tradeoffs**, with its fully analog volume control. This player offers stunning dynamics along with a very analog sounding, tube warmth. This is an outstanding product, that when compared to the competition simply performs at an unmatched level of natural musicality that belies most other digital players.



Aluminum finish

Specifications

- DAC: Wolfson 24 bit resolution, 96KHz sampling rate
- Output Stage: Custom designed transformer-coupled tube output
- Tube Complement: One pair of 6922 dual triode tubes
- Volume Control: Integrated fully analog implementation
- Digital Outputs: Coaxial and Optical
- Analog Outputs: True Balanced XLR and Single Ended RCA

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