



Rotel's latest CD player is a star performer.

ROTEL RCD-1070 CD PLAYER

★★★★★ £525.00

"THE RCD-1070 MAINTAINS A STRONG GRIP ON DYNAMIC SWINGS AND GIVES MUSIC A SENSE OF IMPORT AND GRAVITAS."

Rotel has produced some fine CD spinners, from classics like the RCD-965BX to recent successes like the RCD-971. The latest in this fine lineage is the RCD-1070, the first CD player in Rotel's new 10 Series. Its outlook is black and brooding in the stylistic tradition of the brand, but new design cues introduced across all 10 Series products – smaller rounded controls for example – help to deliver a more contemporary feel.

Many of the player's ingredients are familiar inside as well as out. The brand has always made a big deal about the quality of its toroidal power transformers, right down to its estimable budget amplifiers. Naturally one is included here, along with Rotel's predictably sturdy build and precise attention to detail for the sake of audio purity. There are some pretty serious audio components nestling amid its circuits, slit foil capacitors and the like, while important audiophile considerations like separated power supplies for analogue and digital circuits are present and correct. One difference this time around is the use of a Burr-Brown PCM1732 DAC, an 18-bit equivalent multi-level Delta-Sigma unit.

It's fair to say this is not the most ergonomically

efficient CD player ever and its tiny, clustered buttons are on the fiddly side. But never mind, its sound is full-bodied and wholesome, yet while some Rotel players of the past have erred too far towards caution, this one (like other recent efforts) succeeds in adding detail and vibrancy. It maintains a strong grip on dynamic swings and gives music a sense of import and gravitas, in keeping with the player's stately fascia.

All of which adds up to a sonic character that caters for all kinds of music with an assured and listenable demeanor. Play some classical and both strings and brass sound bold but not overstressed. Switch to rock and its delivery is even-handed yet snappy enough to set your feet tapping, your fingers drumming or whatever you do when you're enjoying a serious CD player. In that respect, this Rotel certainly qualifies. **TB**

DATASTREAM

Burr-Brown PCM1732 18-bit equivalent multi-level Delta-Sigma DAC converter with 8x oversampling, WDCO playback, toroidal power transformer, low resonance transport, coaxial and optical digital outputs, full playback options including random, repeat and 20 track programming.

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