

Rega

Atlas stylus force gauge

SETTING THE CORRECT tracking weight for a cartridge is an essential part of any turntable install procedure in order to obtain the optimum performance from your vinyl. Despite this, force gauges are very much the unsung heroes of the accessory world and many are simply sensitive scales rather than devices that have been purpose built especially for the task. Rega knows a thing or two about fitting cartridges to its decks and the Atlas stylus force gauge is designed to address its dissatisfaction with other setup methods and appeal to users that regularly change pick-ups.

The Atlas' metal body encloses a load cell in an aluminium chassis with an arm that extends out of the casework that weighs the cartridge and tonearm. The load cell is shielded and will work on the

magnetically active platter of a Technics SL-1200GR turntable (see p46), for example, and allows the cartridge tracking force to be measured at a fixed point on the platter for a more accurate reading.

Weigh up the options

In use, the gauge is simplicity itself. Connect up the supplied 9V battery, turn the unit on and wait for the Atlas to zero itself. Once weight is applied to the scale, the red display shows the tracking weight to the nearest hundredth of a gram. You might reasonably wonder why such accuracy is required, but Rega's Apheta 2 cartridge and newly arrived Ania (see p56), which track from 1.75 to 2g, demonstrate why it is so important to be precise.

Flawless though the Atlas is in operation, the rather stiff asking price may be a step too far for some.



Where the gauge does come into its own is if you regularly swap cartridges, while the high-quality construction means that it should last a very long time. This is a useful and accurate force gauge and the ideal accessory for any vinyl fan that enjoys tweaking with their setup. **ES**

DETAILS

PRICE
£175

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OUR VERDICT

