



Pro-Ject - Xtension 10 Evolution

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Pro-Ject Xtension 10 Evolution: where vinyl can better digital

[John H. Darko](#) 20.07.2015

Renaissance. Back in the early noughties, at the dawn of the iPod and iTunes, vinyl's comeback could've been foreseen by almost nobody. The mainstream consumer was busy embracing a digital audio word, albeit a lossy one. Audiophiles were ripping their CDs to lossless formats.



Diehards kept the vinyl faith and a decade later the big black disk almost inexplicably returned from its status as a marginal interest in an already marginal audiophile world. Those diehards now sip nightly from the chalice of vindication; so sweet the taste of saying *"We told you so"* out loud.

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The Xtension 10 Evolution is a big table with a mighty sound. The low end isn't so much bombastic or fat as it is weighty. I wrote this in my notepad: "music sounds like its tied to the core of the earth". Read literally it sounds silly but you can probably understand what I was driving at. I know not of a better way to connote how well this turntable creates the illusion of a presentation that seems anchored as opposed to one that's freefloating.

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To say that the Xtension 10 Evolution sounds better than the Debut Carbon is to do it a gross disservice. It's not only better but – with the right phono pre-amplifier – an altogether different listening experience.

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What sets the Pro-Ject apart from digital delivery is the manner in which transient attack is delivered. I hear this when I listen to the big Pro-Ject. Is that why it sounds so elegant in its conveyance of micro-dynamic drama?

Is this why vinyl heads complain that digital playback sounds uptight, stiff in the joints, and that vinyl is just easier to listen to for longer? Maybe.

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At the higher-end, our digital vs. vinyl story brings a plot twist. The Pro-Ject Xtension 10 Evolution sees this fella's preference for digital lose its grip. More dollars dropped on a Pro-Ject project evens the playing field between digital and vinyl. Asked to choose only one rig I'd probably give the nod to the turntable-centric solution. How's that for unsettling? Did you feel the earth move as digital audio diehards across world over did their best Rumplestiltskin?

DAR-KO award? How on earth could I not?

Full review:

<http://www.digitalaudioreview.net/2015/07/pro-ject-xtension-10-evolution-where-vinyl-can-better-digital/>

