



# Blue Horizon

## RIAA Filter

**LIKE ANY PIECE** of audio equipment, the phono stage is comprised of components that benefit from some hours of running in to reach their optimum performance. The nature of vinyl replay makes this process rather more involved than it is with digital source equipment and, unless you have a record with a locked groove and a signal, the run-in process requires regular attention and can accrue wear on your cartridge.



### DETAILS

**PRICE**  
£100  
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### OUR VERDICT



### Feel the burn

IsoTek produces a range of CD-based burn-in and demagnetisation products and has collaborated with sister brand Blue Horizon to produce an RIAA filter that sits between the CD player and phono stage. The filter drops the player's output voltage to a level that's compatible with the stage to achieve output levels akin to moving-magnet and moving-coil

cartridges without any danger of overload. The run-in set includes a burn-in CD and a filter, that you run in the left and right channels separately.

Using a new Rega Fono MC and Ania cartridge (*HFC 426*), the Fono MC is fractionally edgy fresh from its packaging. Taken to one side and connected to a Cambridge Audio Azur 751BD Blu-ray player running the

burn-in track on repeat for one day per channel, the result is impressive.

At £100, it might not make sense for entry-level stages, but for more upmarket models it removes the worry of wasted playing time on costly cartridges and delivers an optimised phono stage in a relatively speedy manner. It's a specialised product, but a very useful one. **ES**