

## TURNTABLE



# Elipson Chroma 400 RIAA BT

**W**ith the exception of its Ortofon cartridges, Elipson's turntables are bespoke and do not share parts with any other model. This means they have the interesting Orbital Torsion tonearm, which combines the bearings into a 'knuckle' in the centre of a circular housing that has the antiskate applied through the axis of the two bearings. Elipson has added an armlift and made the counterweight easier to adjust for different cartridges.

The motor benefits from improved mounting to reduce interference and vibration, and includes an electronic speed control. The phono stage cannot be switched out of the circuit, but alternates between moving-magnet and coil operation. The Bluetooth transmitter can send an aptX HD line-level signal to a suitable receiver.

### Sound quality

The phono stage meets all the criteria for good performance admirably. It's silent at idle, commendably pitch stable and noise levels are low to the point of being inaudible during normal use. It takes Joan Armatrading's *Me Myself And I* and delivers those wonderful, sonorous vocals with enough warmth and richness to be

convincing without tipping over into sounding bloomy or overblown. They form the centre of the soundstage with supporting instruments arrayed neatly behind. There might not be a truly expansive soundstage, but there is generally enough room to ensure that nothing sounds congested.

The partnership with the Ortofon OM10 cartridge is a good one. The OM10 can be a little on the bright side, making it sound a touch sharp and forward with poorer pressings. The Elipson doesn't have this issue, instead sounding detailed and energetic, but never overly bright.

The bass extension is tight and well controlled, but never feels especially seismic, even with Dead Can Dance's *Spiritchaser* and its sensational bass mastering. Without compromising on the fundamental feeling of accuracy, there is a rhythmic engagement that ensures that the Elipson manages to get the head nodding. It has been a while since I listened to the preceding Omega model, but this does seem to be a meaningful improvement over the older design – which was a little more matter of fact in its presentation.

The Bluetooth implementation is very good too. aptX HD streaming gives a commendable facsimile of the

### DETAILS

**PRODUCT**  
Elipson Chroma  
400 RIAA BT

**PRICE**  
£500

**ORIGIN**  
France

**TYPE**  
Belt-drive turntable

**WEIGHT**  
5.8kg

**DIMENSIONS**  
(WxHxD)  
450 x 120 x 380mm

**FEATURES**  
● 33/45/78rpm  
● Carbon fibre  
tonearm with  
Ortofon OM10  
cartridge  
● On board MM/MC  
phono stage  
● AptX HD  
Bluetooth  
transmitter

**DISTRIBUTOR**  
Avoke Ltd.

**TELEPHONE**  
01628 857958

**WEBSITE**  
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**REVIEWED**  
HFC 467

performance via a wired connection while listening to Marina's *Love + Fear*. The range is sufficient that I can place the Elipson in a different room without any drop out or interference. Unless you have a very specific application for this feature, I'm not completely sure I can see the point of it, but this isn't a complaint that's specific to the Elipson turntable.

### Conclusion

The Chroma 400 RIAA BT is a useful step forward over its predecessor without losing the aesthetics and design flair that made the original so appealing. The changes add up to a more capable and user-friendly turntable that looks and feels more special than most. Thanks to its decent phono stage and fundamentally benign characteristics, this is a fine option for anyone looking for a plug-and-play turntable that doesn't compromise when it comes to the business of vinyl replay. The Bluetooth section doesn't feel like a 'must have' extra, but judged in comparison with similar fitments there is no arguing with the performance it offers. **ES**

## Hi-Fi Choice

### OUR VERDICT

#### SOUND QUALITY



**LIKE:** Engaging and refined performance; attractive; build quality

#### VALUE FOR MONEY



**DISLIKE:** Limited bass extension; crude armlift

#### BUILD QUALITY



**WE SAY:** A capable and engaging turntable that delivers excellent plug-and-play performance

#### FEATURES



#### OVERALL

