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APRIL 2020 • 182

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



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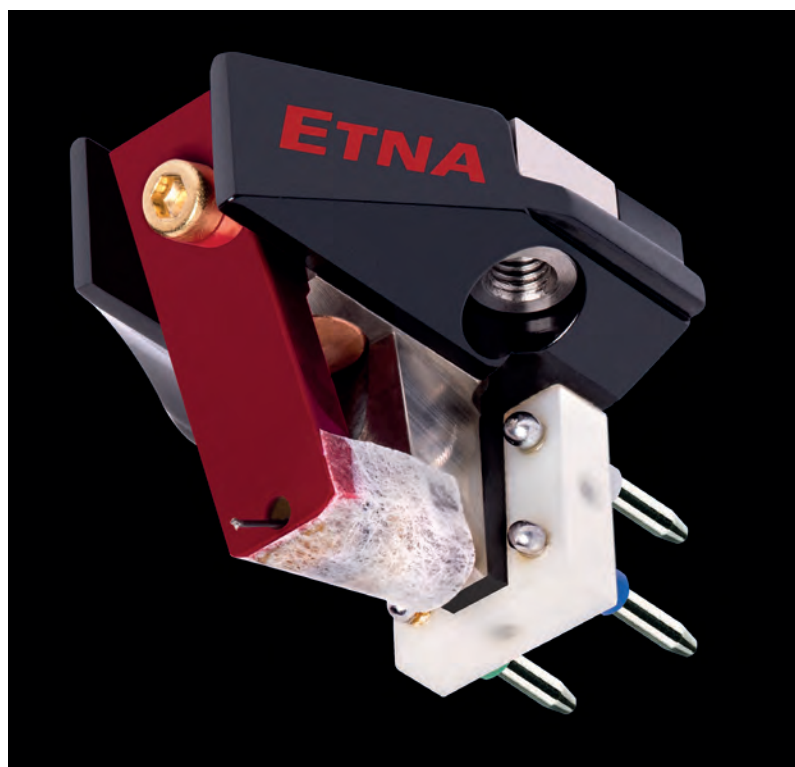
## Lyra

### Etna SL cartridge

Reviewed in Issue **178**



The Lyra Etna SL sets a standard against which all other top-end cartridges should be referenced.”



**L**yra's Etna SL is a denuded (bodyless) cartridge based on the company's second from the top Etna moving coil, which is itself based on the range-topping Atlas. The top Lyras are asymmetrically-structured, so that the mounting of the front magnet carrier could be moved out of the way of the mechanical path connecting cantilever to headshell. The differently-shaped structures on the left and right sides limit the formation of standing waves inside the cartridge body itself. Etna (standard or SL) features a yokeless dual magnet system, diamond-coated boron rod cantilever built directly into the titanium body structure, and a Lyra-designed variable-radius line-contact stylus. The Etna SL (or 'single layer') is a custom-ordered variant, with a 0.25mV output, 1.52Ω self-impedance, and a 1.9μH inductance.

In our test, Alan Sircom found that "Some cartridges excel at some things and are simply 'OK' at others. Routinely those considered 'the best' are remarkable at one or two aspects of a performance, and don't mess up the others. The Etna SL is balanced because it excels in all aspects of performance." He concluded that, "the Lyra Etna SL sets a standard against which all other top-end cartridges should be referenced." +