



FEBRUARY 2014 HI-FI WORLD

**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best**

# Box clever!



And just to distinguish itself a little bit more, the output stage of the RS uses a pair of 6922 (E88CC) triode valves in dual mono configuration. While tube outputs are not unheard of in streamers (Consonance, for one, have done similar), they are certainly unusual enough to make the Stream Box RS something of a rare beast.

Aside from that feature, the RS also boasts both balanced XLR and unbalanced RCA outputs as well as USB inputs on the front and rear panels.

The remote is small but functional – however, the likelihood is most Stream Box purchasers will gravitate towards the free mobile app for everyday use.

Thankfully, Pro-Ject has provided both iOS and Android versions and – it works well in practice with fast access times and a clean and simple interface.

### SOUND QUALITY

Set the RS playing and it soon becomes obvious those 6922 valves are not merely for show.

The Pro-Ject has a tonal quality quite different from most other streamers – and it translates into a quite beguiling sound.

Its overall quality is smooth, relaxed and rather warm with little evidence of any digital sharpness. But that doesn't mean it is soft or lacking in rhythmic ability – just that it doesn't throw everything in your face as some other streamers do.

### CONCLUSION

The Pro-Ject Stream Box RS is a refreshingly different addition to the ranks of music streamers. It has a smooth, relaxed and thoroughly civilised sound without ever straying into the realms of blandness.

There's no doubt the valve output stage adds a distinctive flavour to the sound – and one which should find favour with many listeners. Its analogue input and preamp facilities also add to the value, while the free smartphone control app is well-designed and fuss-free too. Add it all together and you have a very tempting package indeed.

### PRO-JECT STREAM BOX RS



**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best**

#### VERDICT

A refined and smooth performer that brings something different to the ranks of music streamers. Preamp capability is also a useful addition.

#### FOR

- smooth, sophisticated sound
- analogue input
- preamp facility
- good control app

#### AGAINST

- not the most forceful presentation
- nothing else