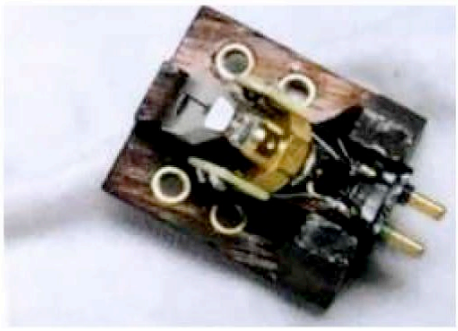
VAN DEN HUL THE CRIMSON



The Crimson MC is one of the Van den Hul "must-haves". 100% hand-made, like all the company's products, this cartridge comes in light wood, dark wood or red varieties (XGW version). On request, a polycarbonate body (XGP version) can also be supplied as well as a special edition Crimson XGA now available, which features a titanium and amber body (the 'A' in XGA). And it's the letters in the name of each model which shed light on their construction. The 'X' denotes a cross-coil structure within an ultra-powerful samariam/cobalt magnet, while the 'G' indicates the pure gold wire used for the coils. "Customised" versions can be produced in response to specific customer requests, e.g. using another type of conductor for the coils, varying their positioning or even providing a higher output voltage. The wooden body of the 'W' versions comes complete with threaded inserts fractionally misaligned with the normalised centre distance, to mount the cartridge body under stress. The boron cantilever accommodates a VDH-1S-type diamond stylus which features a narrower lateral radius than that of the VDH-1 profile. It takes three weeks to produce a Crimson cartridge, each of which comes with a 200 hour service check-up, free of charge (for the original owner).

While the DDT-II Special bowled us over with its vim and unfettered musicality, the Crimson unquestionably raises the bar even higher in terms of the development of notes (remarkable legato of Barney Wilen's tenor saxophone on "Vamp "), the overwhelmingly tangible tonal texture of Barbara, virtually at your fingertips) and the dynamic vocal variety of Giuseppe di Stefano in *Tosca).* The sound stage unfolds in a spatially unhindered manner and delivers an impressive breadth of image stability (a studio-like feel with faultless localisation of instruments on "Hot Stuff" by the Stones).

TIMBRES: ★★★★★★
DYNAMIC: ★★★★★★
SOUND STAGE: ★★★★★★
TRANSPARENCY: ★★★★★★

Origin: The Netherlands
Price: 4080 Euro
Type: Medium-level MC
Frequency range: 5 Hz - 55 kHz
Output voltage: 0.65 mV (1 kHz, 5 cm/s)
Recommended load impedance:
from 25 to 200 Ohm