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Subject: Re: Grado Sonata II

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Fri, 07 Dec 2018 23:07:35 GMT

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Hi, I have the AT OC9ML/II and the AT 33PTG/II (also an AT F7). The PTG33 is the nicest of the group and is pretty much a good all around cartridge. It wouldn't offend anyone. It is number three in my line up. The sound is generally somewhere between the Grado and Dynavector. The F7 is a good lower cost cartridge and does a rather nice job in many arms. Not fussy and has an easy to see stylus that makes for easy track selection. The Grado is just the opposite as the stylus is in the middle of a large chunk of wood. The Dynavector is a bit easier to see. BTW for all that are not aware of it, all the mentioned ATs are low output moving coil cartridges and require either preamps with sufficient gain or step up transformers (SUT). I much prefer SUTs and have a number of them. The ones from Silk Audio (SAC 220) and Softone PLT1 are the ones I like the best. Neither is really that costly. SUTs can get very costly and IMO probably not that much better than the ones I have. Another option in the lower cost range is Lundahl ones. Decent all around performance. All the ones mentioned need to be built into a housing as they are "raw" components. A hint if you go that way...you really need steel enclosures, aluminum doesn't block radiated hum well.

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