BEST OF THE BEST



Tech

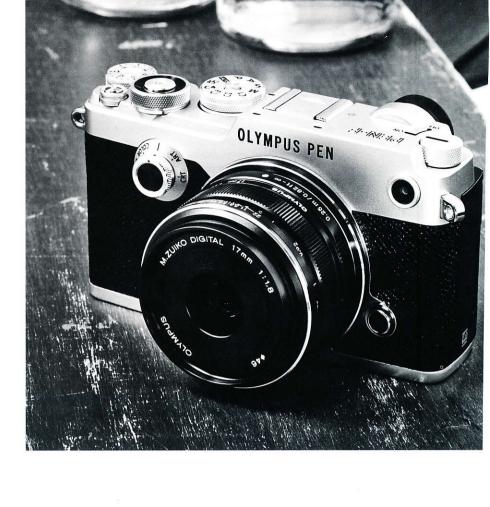
FIRST TURNTABLE

EAT C-SHARP

If you want to participate in the revival of vinyl, you will need something to play it on, and most entry-level record decks are respectful of neither your LPs nor of the music. Conversely, you may wish to just dip your toes rather than commit to a deck the price of a Porsche 911. EAT's C-Sharp is the fourth model from the Czech company otherwise known as the European Audio Team. It uses modern design and materials — carbon fibre and thermoplastic elastomer abound — in a sleek chassis, alongside simple operation and upgradeability to set newcomers on the path to analogue heaven. As EAT's founder, Jozefina Lichtenegger, is a fashion obsessive, it has the advantage of looking cool, too. **Ken Kessler**

£2,500; europeanaudioteam.com

For more high-tech gadgetry, go to robbreport.co.uk/tech





EAT aims to pack in the technology and ramp up performance levels but keep its decks looking slim and trim

DIGITAL CAMERA FOR FILM-QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHY

Olympus Pen-F

Olympus' original Pen was a pocket-sized camera, launched in 1959 and able to deliver 'half-frame' images - 72 shots on a roll of 36. That feature, for saving on the cost of film, doesn't apply to digital photography, but all of its other virtues do. When the line was revived in 2009 on the Pen's 50th anniversary, these virtues remained intact. New Pens use Micro Four Thirds lenses, keeping them smaller than DSLRs, but maintaining the ability to switch lenses, while the layout, controls and features of the top-of-the-line 20 megapixel Pen-F are so redolent of the film era that you'd be forgiven for thinking it needs a roll of the stuff. KK £1,199; olympus.co.uk



SPEAKER

Wilson Audio Alexandria XLF

David Wilson's eponymous brand did not start out manufacturing speakers; he was a recording-studio engineer and wanted better monitors than he could find. When he began to make his own, they proved so popular that they started a speaker dynasty, and the Alexandria XLF is the result of nearly 40 years of refinement. With a massive cabinet size, space-age materials and modular construction, the XLF is installed with each section positioned to the millimetre. While Wilson's own tastes are for classical music, he has a heavy-metal headbanger's respect. for maximum levels: in his case, the sound of a real orchestra. If you want it, the XLF can do it. KK £200,000; wilsonaudio.com

