

# HANA Umami Blue

Umami Sound creates Exceptional Musical Quality



## HANA-Umami Blue - Treat Your Senses

Hana's Master cartridge designer Maseo Okada-san offers you an exceptional listening experience, synergizing special ingredients and techniques to create musical richness with his **HANA-Umami Blue** hand-built MC cartridge from Japan.

When you experience a special sense of taste in food, it's Umami\*. The specific ingredients meld together synergistically and harmoniously to become more than the sum of their parts. Many of the world's most delicious and memorable food experiences possess the Umami quality.

The **HANA-Umami Blue** cartridge follows in the Hana "Brilliant and Gorgeous" tradition of providing the listener with sublime enjoyment. The **HANA-Umami Red** won accolades and critical acclaim worldwide for the highest achievement of sound quality. The **HANA ML** moving coil cartridge is recognized for a level of musical enjoyment and satisfaction unique in its price range. Embodying the true sense of synergy, the **HANA-Umami Blue** combines their essential ingredients to establish a new standard for musical performance and value.

\*Umami. /u:'ma:mi/ noun. The fifth taste category after salty, sweet, sour, and bitter. Officially coined Umami in 1908 by Japanese chemist Ikeda-san, it is that very pleasing or delicious flavor on the palette, a synergistic effect resulting in higher taste intensity.

### The HANA-Umami Way

The **HANA-Umami Blue** high-end moving coil cartridge combines the vision of Master cartridge designer Okada-san with the history of special materials, classic Japanese techniques, and modern audio engineering. The Auricle™ body design, unique and exclusive to our Umami series, is CNC machined from Duralumin. Sharing key Umami Red ingredients, including the precision-cut diamond stylus, Boron cantilever, and high-purity copper wires, then combining these with the Alnico magnet based generator found in the famous **Hana ML**, creates the exceptionally musical **Umami Blue**.

This synergistic relationship in MC cartridge design between specific materials, unique body design, a sophisticated generator, and hand-built precision is the critical aspect for outstanding cartridge performance. This creates a memorable and emotional experience, reminiscent of meal at a Michelin 3-star restaurant, with every element and detail working in concert.

All the major parts in a **HANA-Umami Blue** are manufactured in house by Excel Sound with its rich history spanning well over 50 years. Excel's highly trained craftsmen skillfully hand assemble the **HANA-Umami Blue**, and all Hana cartridges, ensuring an intensely musical experience furthering the HANA "Brilliant and Gorgeous" sound.



**Special Body Finish**

The HANA-Umami Blue uses a special Melamine Thermosetting Process (MTP) to impart the brilliant blue glossy finish to the Auricle™ body. Originally developed by Dupont, the melamine resin bonds to the aluminum body via vapor deposition by baking at 120 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes for increased hardness and resonance control. The Melamine Thermosetting Process contributes to the rich sound with increased clarity, better imaging, and bass definition. The luster of the Umami Blue glossy finish is brilliant and gorgeous, assuring long life with special optics.

**HANA-Umami Blue – a new synergy**

**Auricle™ Cartridge body**

The HANA-Umami Blue incorporates the exclusive Auricle™ body design, first developed for the Umami Red. It mimics the shape of the human outer ear to rigidly support the "Open Air" Moving Coil generator. The unique body shape is machined from A7075 aluminum, one of the strongest and lightest alloys, often specified in aerospace engineering. The Umami Blue features a white POM inlay on its front fascia to provide damping properties and as homage to the Hana ML, the first cartridge using a POM body. Tapped and threaded mounting holes in the Auricle™ body assure secure attachment to the tonearm.

**Enameled Body Treatment**

The HANA-Umami Blue uses a special enameling process to impart the special blue finish to the Auricle™ body, adding to the rich sound and optics

**Microline stylus**

The HANA-Umami Blue 'nude' natural diamond stylus is cut and polished to mimic the cutting head stylus used to Master or "cut" all vinyl records. This critical part, also used on the HANA-Umami Red, offers the most precise fit into the vinyl groove, tracing the most delicate musical nuances.

**Boron cantilever**

Boron, with a hardness comparable to diamond, was selected for the HANA-Umami Blue to rigidly hold the Microline stylus. This solid Boron cantilever, a critical ingredient of the HANA-Umami Red, allows the smallest audible

details and micro-dynamics to be transmitted without loss to the moving coil generator, capturing the artists' intent.

**Alnico magnet-based moving coil generator**

The Alnico magnet material selected for the HANA-Umami Blue, as found in the Hana ML generator, creates a classic sonic quality. Alnico magnets provide greater linearity with reduced saturation, creating a rich musical quality. The Pure copper wires are expertly hand-wound onto the Permalloy cross armature, found in the Hana ML generator. The pure iron pole piece featured in the Umami Blue is another key ingredient found in both the HANA-Umami Red and Hana ML generator.

**Cryogenic processing**

This 'cold annealing' process at near absolute zero temperature is used to treat the pole piece, both front and rear yoke in the HANA-Umami Blue generator as well as the gold-plated signal output pins. The cryogenic process alters the molecular structure of the materials, producing a transformative quality similar to molecular gastronomy.

**Exceptionally Musical**

The Hana team is proud of their seamless integration of brilliant materials, modern audio engineering, and traditional Japanese techniques. Master designer Okada-san brings decades of experience to this design, furthering the Umami concept of synergy with the HANA-Umami Blue to create an exceptional musical quality.

Umami Blue Moving Coil Cartridge Specification (220908) (*)	Body	Material	Duralumin (A7075)
		Finish	Melamine Thermosetting Process (MTP)
	Cantilever	Cantilever	Boron
		Stylus	Microline Nude Diamond
	Magnetic Circuit	Armature Material	Permalloy
		Armature Shape	Cross Plate
		Parts Material	Pure Iron
		Magnet	Alnico (Al-Ni-Co)
		Output Pins	24K Gold Plated
		Coil	Coil Impedance
		Output	0.4mv
		Coil Wire Material	High Purity Copper
		Load Impedance	> 80 Ω

(\*) Specification is subject to further possible change.

Specification	Treatment	Cryogenic	Front Yoke,Rear Yoke Pole Piece,Terminal Pins
	Frequency Response	15-50,000	
	Output Balance	0.5dB/1KHz	
	Channel Separation	30dB/1KHz	
	Tracking Weight	2g	
	Trackability	70 μ m/2g	
	Dynamic Compliance	10 x 10(-6) cm/dyne (10Hz)	
		Estimated at 17 x 10(-6)cm/dyne at 10Hz	
	Cartridge Weight	10.8g	

Distributor & Dealer

**EXCEL SOUND™**

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