First in love with Metronome Technology’s Le Player 2 back in HFC 425, so when I heard that an upgraded version of the CD player was available, a resend was speedily arranged. Despite its 3rd status, the latest model looks almost identical to its predecessor, and both sport the same chic, silvery grey casework, Delrin feet and solid aluminium front plate hosting a slim CD drawer, unterminated blue LED display and sleek metal buttons and switches. The CD drive tray is still of the lift-up variety, which feels a little vulnerable but it performs its task smoothly and reliably for the entire review. Controls and symbols are still wonderfully quirky but the switchgear is positive and clear, imbuing the machine with a no-nonsense intent that feels refreshingly unfussy and very professional. The front remote is straightforward and functional, even enabling the display to be dimmed or turned off, but it doesn’t allow source switching, which is controlled via a revised front fascia switch that cycles between CD, USB input or coaxial digital output. Around the back, unbalanced RCA, balanced XLRs, S/PDIF coaxial digital output and balanced XLRs; S/PDIF digital output. Inputs: 1x USB-B port Outputs: 1x stereo XLRs; S/PDIF coaxial digital output.