

AUDIOFILE VINYL



Ornette Coleman The Shape of Jazz to Come

HOT PICK

180g vinyl

Speakers Corner



THE WORD SEMINAL

tends to get bandied about rather too often in music, but Ornette Coleman's third release for Atlantic records back in 1959 is more than worthy of that

particular description. It finds the alto saxophone player in the company of Don Cherry on cornet, Charlie Haden on bass and Billy Higgins on drums at a time when all three were carving out names for themselves. The album was one of the first to put the notion of free jazz on the map and yet today still manages to sounds remarkably

coherent, improvised but tightly focussed with the two horn players occasionally playing in unison to tremendous effect.

The recording puts Coleman's sax in the left and Cherry's cornet in the right channel with rhythm section positioned in between but down in the mix. It's not exactly stereo, but on a coherent system sounds thrilling such is the freshness and vivacity of the compositions. Coleman's Grafton saxophone is not the sweetest, but his playing is so clear and the expression so strong that a good system will let you hear through the tone to the feelings behind it. The attitude was punk by the standards of its time, but the playing is as sharp as it gets. **JK**