

Comeback

Tables are turned yet again as manufacturers reply to this month's equipment tests

Ariston RD 110

As the panel were clearly impressed by the sound produced by the RD 110 it would be silly to spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar so certain modifications, some of which Alvin has mentioned in the review, have been incorporated in the Ariston turntable range, including the RD 110. All turntables will be fitted with adjustable rubber feet for levelling and for low resonance isolation and all turntables will have access points in the base to the motor adjustment nut, the suspension

springs and the underside of the tonearm. It is therefore no longer necessary to take the base off the turntable for routine adjustments and for dressing the arm leads. Four screws will now retain the turntable base, not eight as at present and the recent RD 110 models will incorporate a two speed pulley with square belt and a clutch to enable the platter to come up to speed in a quicker and smoother fashion without the risk of belt shedding. These changes should alleviate the irritants Alvin encountered.

• *Andy Giles, Press Officer, Ariston Acoustics*

have been that this deck is the one Alvin's been using for the past two years could it?

I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole hi-fi world when I heartily thank all at 'Answers' for the new terminology 'clangy', and how fortunate that the JBE is the only one of the four to have this new quality. Although, at the risk of appearing ignorant, I am not sure which parameter or turntable measurement is responsible; rumble, wow and flutter, etc, but we will do more exhaustive tests to further this end.

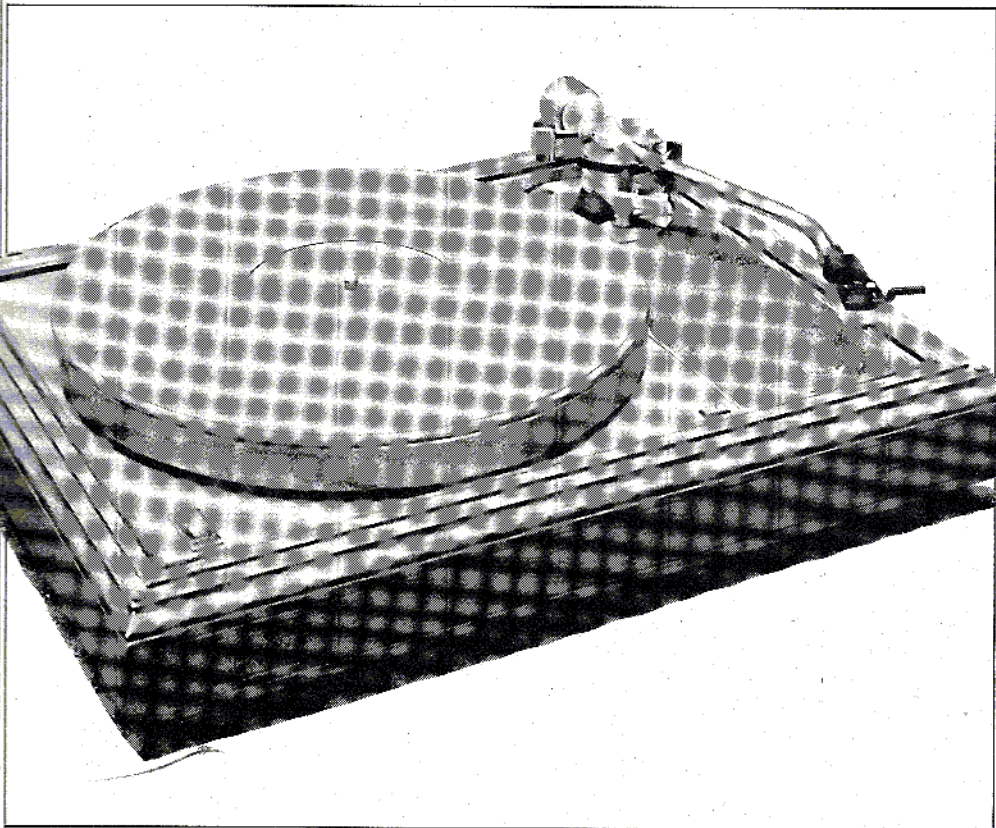
I could not let this opportunity go without making reference to the 'brilliance' of Alvin Gold when, on finding that the arm was set up wrongly on the JBE, he went home and set the arm up wrongly on the reference. All of us here (who stand in his shadow) would have been foolish enough to fit the arms on both turntables correctly to make a final assessment. Still, that's probably one of the reasons why he is a reviewer for 'Answers'.

Whilst on the subject of arm set-ups a changeable headshell can give a different overhang depending on the distance from pivot to centre spindle (we who have done lots of A/Bs know) and I assume that the overhang was set correctly on the JBE (not the beat up old Linn), otherwise we could not have come out so well.

Now I know at the end of this letter you will put a little paragraph that negates my comments and praises, but I impeach you not to be modest — you tell everybody how good and fair and unbiased the tests were. Oh . . . and may I take this opportunity of welcoming you to the 'Hi-Fi Answers' fold.

Finally Keith, please do not edit too much of this letter. It's light hearted comical stance is, I am sure, what readers of 'Answers' have come to expect.

• *Tom Arnold, Managing Director, JBE Ltd.*



Ariston RD110 — talk of new mods

Linn Sondek LP12

As you know we only comment on factual aspects and there is nothing we wish to comment on in this review.

On a personal note, however, I feel that the range of recorded material used in the listening test is too limited and includes too much popular material. A larger portion of more demanding classical material, in my opinion, would be desirable.

• *Ivor Tiefenbrun, Linn Products*

Dunlop Systemdek

No reply was received within specified press dates.

JBE Series III

How could I refuse to comment after receiving such a brilliant and technically uncomplicated review of our JBE III turntable. And just when I was beginning to think that our products would never get an unbiased appraisal.

When I recall (on hearing that you were to review the Linn, Ariston and Systemdek) running to your office and asking you to squeeze our deck in, I realise how lucky I was.

I was lucky in more ways than one: lucky that Linn didn't supply you with a new deck. Fancy, a two year old below optimum turntable with a damaged motor housing and suspect main chassis screw. It couldn't

JBL L112

JBL would like to thank Hi-Fi Answers for their favourable review of the L112 loudspeaker system. The following comments will give some of the background of the development of the L112 and related products.

For about 30 years, JBL was known primarily as a components house. While we undoubtedly remain more component orientated than most companies which produce consumer loudspeaker systems, the emphasis over the last five years has clearly shifted to a systems approach. Designs such as the L112 and L150A represent our current thinking in the consumer area, and the next fifteen to eighteen months will see more products developed along these lines.

The ordering of attributes is what sets one

Soundout

Compliments to the chef

Having stayed at your hotel last month, I found the restaurant menu quite varied, but one or two courses gave me slight indigestion. For starters, the letter from John Withey choked me, as it must have choked you to publish it. A man who hopes to pioneer a new design which 'technologically cannot be faulted' can ill afford to take a superior standpoint until he is proven in his theories. Peter Walker of Quad no doubt thought he was right in 1963, but was patient enough to wait until 1981 to prove it. A lesson to be learnt there, Mr Withey.

The main course comprised your four juicy turntables and looked most appetizing. A very well prepared meal it was too, but why oh why did the reviewer use a Linn that was known to have faults, especially after taking so much trouble to ensure that the same arm/cartridge combo was used on all four decks? Surely it would have been fairer to use a Linn with no known defects, particularly after the stick it has taken since last Christmas. Sometimes I think you do it on purpose.

And finally to the pudding, which was Alvin Gold's hi-fi myth-mash. Some of it was a little bit too clever for a Brummagem thicko like me, but I related some of the simpler points relating to turntables to my own record player (yes, that's what they all are, folks) and it all seemed to make more sense. One point did fox me, though. I have always thought that a piece of hype from the Scottish Mafia was Lena Zavaroni's latest album.

Looking forward to your next gastronomic delight.

• Dave Sprason

Yo ho ho and a bottle of . . .

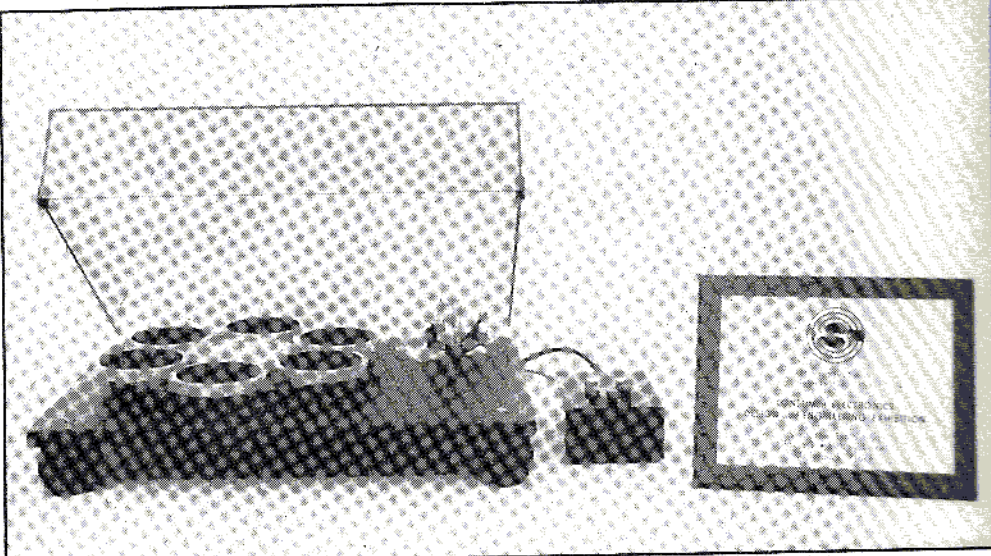
Once again it seems that JBE have to thank Hi-Fi Answers — another first! — and so astutely brought to the attention of the hi-fi buying public.

I refer of course to the photograph of the JBE in the 'Hi-Fi Exchange' page in the June issue of Answers, where to my knowledge the first secondhand JBE was up for sale. Most JBE owners realise the quality of their turntable and would not part with it for the world. The many letters and comments in praise of our product is now fairly well known and consequently a secondhand JBE is as common as a duck with an arrow through its chest still flying.

Please tell me who is the little ferret that goes through all the small ads looking for such sensational news? I should like to send him a bottle of something as a small reward for his industriousness.

Keep up the monthly appointments.

• Tom Arnold, Managing Director, JBE Ltd



Another secondhand first for JBE!

■ Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean we're not out to get you!

But seriously, it was nothing more than an unhappy coincidence. When I saw the ad in the 'Exchange' pages I thought it a good idea to tie it in with the review in the same issue. However, as the 'Exchange' pages are always

the first to go, the turntable hadn't yet been reviewed, and the whole idea took a completely different slant when the JBE got slavishly unfavourably reviewed.

No hard feelings then — and a bottle of Southern Comfort would go down fine — Tony 'the ferret' Horkins.

Turntable test feedback

After having been irritated too often by your so called blind tests of equipment, I was moved to write and admonish you for your sloppy test procedures on your four record deck test, June '81.

Science has established an honest way to assess products — the double blind controlled trial. This involves products and controls being coded so that neither the panel nor the person testing the product knows which product is which until the code is broken and the results are published in full.

Alvin Gold stated that panel tests form only part of the tests, stating that further listening tests (not controlled or blind) took place before and after to 'try to discount any shortcomings in the test procedure'. There should be no shortcomings in the test procedure; this is inherent in presenting a valid double blind trial, which could so easily be applied to hi-fi equipment.

I applaud JBE's comments on the test in view of the pathetic attempt at achieving optimum VTA on their deck. However I deplore the attitude of the other companies for not pointing out the lack of correct test procedure for the comparison. Subjectivity should be the premise of the panel, not of the writer of the review.

If all parameters had been optimised before the tests, and all comments by the panel and scores on each deck had been published and not just comments selected by

Alvin Gold, and had the test been carried out by a third party (preferably someone to whom the names of the decks meant nothing) then the results might have been relevant.

Incidentally, I don't own a JBE.

• R H Wright

■ Anyone who cares to can check the relevance or otherwise of our comments — which cannot be determined either way merely by studying the test procedure — by doing their own listening tests at a local dealer.

I can't guarantee that he'll be able to do the comparisons double blind, though — Ed.

Good show

First, our congratulations on the timely improvements made to 'Hi-Fi Answers', in terms of print clarity, layout, and, above all, the inclusion of the manufacturers' Com-back column — each factor has contributed to a significant advance in the magazine's 'readability'.

In the June issue, you refer in the 'Earsay' section to the recent exhibition organised by Audio Corner and, having commented that you had received no feedback on the show, we felt that we could not pass up the opportunity of expressing our feelings on the show itself and on the comparative tests held, all of which we participated in to varying levels.

To begin with, our thanks to Brian, Mary,

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