

RECOMMENDED

REVISED AND REPRINTED

Pink Triangle

Pink Triangle Products, 1 Cossington Court, Alder Road, Sidcup, Kent.
Tel 01-302 1257



From the outside, the name and distinctive logo may seem all that is remarkable about this turntable, which has been designed in the UK along classic lines, using a sprung subchassis and belt drive. More detailed examination however reveals many unique features; for example, the platter is solid matt finished acrylic, supplying the record support and termination itself. A semi-gloss black finish is used for the top deck, replacing the earlier tinted glass mirrors, and while the latter were removable the newer alloy plates are fixed. Fine speed control adjustment is available by the use of a screwdriver inserted in the small holes in the deck plate adjacent to the speed change switch, the drive being electronic via a small DC motor.

The subchassis is very light, but is an exceedingly rigid and well damped plate — an asymmetric section of honeycomb-cored aircraft flooring material.

The main bearing has been inverted and comprises an inherently self stabilising single point design. The inverted cup now has a ruby bearing surface as standard. An ingenious system of three small-diameter, but fairly long, coil-springs allows the chassis to hang freely in near isolation, with the vertical mode controlled by spring stiffness, and the lateral and torsional modes assisted by gravity as

well — a good feature.

Arm mounting is by means of a 'U' shaped section alloy extrusion, which is firmly bolted to four studs set in the subchassis. Adequate provision for lead dressing has been made, and the unit came fitted with an *Ittok*, which suited it well.

One point to bear in mind here is that the relatively low total suspended mass and high spring compliance results in slightly altered states of level with different record weights. The *Ittok* is little affected by this, but if using a Syrinx, for example, which is sensitive to absolute levelling, it could prove disastrous. However, the deck is easily levelled via concealed external nuts in the plinth sides.

Lab results

State of the art rumble figures were achieved, the spectrum analysis revealing nothing of significance. The drive was remarkably stable with very low wow, very good flutter and fine weighted wow and flutter. As no dynamic wow overshoot occurred, this helped to mitigate the fairly low torque which resulted in a significant 0.5% slowing under standard loading. With a moderate 1.7kg platter mass, the flywheel effect was lower than in competing models.

The expanded X10 scaling proved possible for the disc impulse measurement, and the

result was very good, with balanced impulse decay control over a wide frequency range. This performance carried through to the vibration and acoustic isolation results, which were exemplary, and aural testing with a live cartridge showed that this platform was singularly inert overall in terms of resonances, yet the subchassis freedom also resulted in quite good 'footfall' shock resistance.

Sound quality

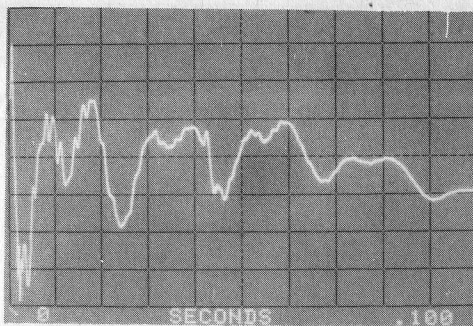
For this issue the Triangle was tried with both the *Ittok* and *Orion* tonearms and qualities of low coloration tonal neutrality as well as a pleasing musical balance were immediately apparent. The bass register was well above average showing an open and articulate quality — tuneful and with good weight and solidity. The sound was alive yet somehow unforced. Disc/platter contact seemed particularly good, with a well focused treble, the whole delivering stable, clear stereo images. With rock-orientated material we heard a mild lack of pitch stability which slightly detracted from the timing and tempo of the music, although this negative effect depended on the listener's sensitivity as well as on the programme type.

Conclusion

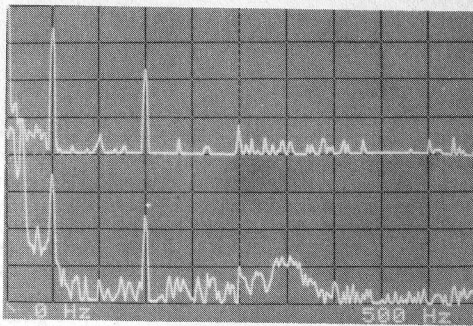
Since our tests for the last edition, Pink Triangle have come up with an interior change which has reduced slowing under load to a perfectly satisfactory 0.22%. On the latest review, a faulty belt (which unfortunately was not replaced by the time we went to press) produced rather high wow and flutter of 0.22%, but based on past experience we feel that this is atypical. Dynamic wow has been virtually banished on current production, so removing our only significant reservation concerning this fine-sounding player, and a full recommendation is thus appropriate.

GENERAL DATA

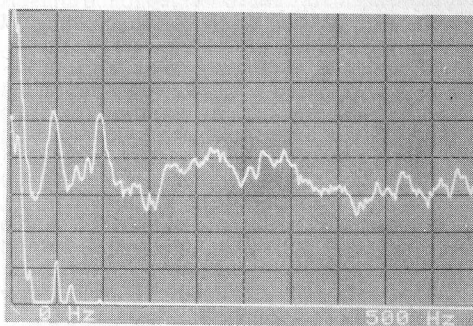
Type	Motor Unit belt drive
Platter mass/damping	1.7kg/very good
Finish and engineering	very good/very good
Type of mains lead/connecting leads	3 core/—
Speed options	33/45rpm (internally variable)
Wow and flutter (DIN peak wtd sigma 2)	0.06%
Wow and flutter (LIN peak wtd 0.2-6Hz/6-300Hz)	<0.06%/0.07%
Absolute speed error	adjustable, +1%
Speed drift 1 hour/load variation	+0.2%/-0.5%
Start up time to audible stabilisation	3secs
Rumble: DIN B wtd L/R av (see spectrum)	77/78dB
Size/clearance for lid rear	45.5(w) x 38.5(d) x 15.2(h)/6cm
Ease of use	good
Typical acoustic breakthrough and resonances	excellent
Subjective sound quality of complete system	very good+
Hum level/acoustic feedback	very good/excellent
Vibration sensitivity/shock resistance	excellent/good
Estimated typical purchase price	£398



Disc impulse transmission, magnified X10.



Rumble (0-500Hz lin): above, electrical only; below, total.



Breakthrough (0-500Hz lin): above, acoustic; below, vibration.