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Decibel Hi Fi Newsletter No. 55 August 2017

**Dear Brian**

*If you weren't able to attend the Australian Audio & A/V Show last weekend in Sydney (like me), there's a [good report](#) on the StereoNet website.*

*I introduced the Elipson brand last month, and have now had a chance to audition their entry level turntable. I have posted a [blog](#) with my observations. I'll review their Planet M speakers next month.*



*There's been a couple of interesting articles in the last couple of weeks regarding the resurgence of vinyl records. I have summarised them below. As revivalists for vinyl we want to encourage the resurgence, but we don't want to see people being misled regarding the quality of new records being offered.*

*Musical regards*

*Brian Maddern  
Decibel Hi Fi & Soundring*

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## **The Vinyl Revival - is it ending?**

No one is disputing the rise in popularity of vinyl records (and of course record players). In fact there was a [story](#) in the Channel News a few weeks ago that three decades after Sony abandoned vinyl production they will resume pressing records next March. However, according to an article in last Saturday's

Australian some recent statistics are interesting. In Australia there has been a steady rise in sales of new vinyl over the last six years. However, it is a different story in the USA where sales are starting to slow down.

The reason it seems is due to low quality records being produced from digital files or even CDs rather than the original analog master tapes. ([Channel News story](#)).

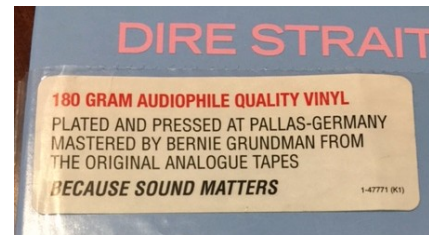
If a record has been remastered there will probably be a note on it like the stickers on some reissues of Dire Straits records I bought a couple of years ago.

The absence of stickers like these does not necessarily mean that the quality is substandard, but usually if a company goes to the trouble of producing the highest quality vinyl recording that they can, they would tell you about it.

So, I am going to be a little skeptical about re-releases of records from the major companies and try to confirm that they are least as good as the originals and not a quick and inferior production intended to exploit the current interest in vinyl records. The quality isn't an issue with companies like Mobile Fidelity and others producing audiophile quality LPs.

One double LP that came to my attention the other day after I read the Weekend Australian article is the Buena Vista Social Club. My first impression looking at the cover was "this is a dodgy copy" because the photo is quite unclear, like a photocopy of a photocopy. But when I looked at the CD cover, I could see that the original photo was also unclear, and when blown up to LP size that lack of clarity was magnified. In some respects the LP cover photo showed more detail. But of course the real important test is the sound quality. Using a fairly basic Pioneer CD player and the entry level [Elipson Alpha 100 turntable](#) I listened to several tracks, alternating between the CD and the LP. The initial impression was that the CD was clearer, but the vinyl had a fuller, more natural sound. Certainly I preferred the vinyl version, and I am confident this re-release is the real deal.

If any of our readers come across new LPs they regard as sub-standard please let me know and we will publish a list on the website to warn our readers.



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## Better Sound from your TV

Many of us have older amplifiers and speakers that aren't being used, but we don't want to get rid of them sometimes for sentimental reasons

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In the past it was relatively to hook them up to a TV because there were analogue output RCA sockets, so a pair of interconnects could be used to plug into a spare AUX input on an amplifier. But most TVs nowadays don't have those analogue outputs. They usually have an optical digital output. So what you



need is a little [Digital to Analogue converter](#) like the one pictured. You plug a glass fibre optical cable into the TV and the other end goes into the converter. Then you connect a pair of RCA interconnects from the analogue output of the converter to AUX sockets on your amplifier. You'll then need to go into the menu on the TV and switch off the internal speakers. The improvement in sound quality will be a revelation - most TVs have crummy internal speakers.

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## Secondhand additions

This week we have added a few items to our [secondhand category](#), including a superb Nottingham Analogue Studio turntable and some B&W speakers.

- [NAS SpaceDeck](#) with Space tonearm and Ortofon Kontrapunkt B moving coil cartridge, Boston Audio Mat 1, and Wave Mechanic power supply (current replacement price over \$7000)
- [Trichord Research Dino Mk2](#) phono preamplifier
- [B&W DM220 loudspeakers](#)

Also being added next week after testing and pricing are

- NAD 7125 Receiver
- NAD 6125 Cassette Deck
- DUAL CS 515 turntable
- SONY CD Player C325M
- YAMAHA CDC-745 multi CD player
- YAMAHA RX-385 stereo receiver
- LINEAR DESIGN GST1 turntable

If you are interested in a unit that isn't on the webstore yet please phone (07 3344 5756) or email ([enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au](mailto:enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au)).





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