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Decibel Hi Fi Newsletter No. 60 January 2018

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Dear Brian

Happy New Year.

Some months ago we decided that we would no longer sell LPs, but occasionally we come across offers which are exceptional and too good to refuse. That happened last week when the importer of Gold Note products (from Italy) offered us a batch of their limited edition pressings. See the titles below.



The same importer also has some overstocked products from the long standing French manufacturer Micromega, so if you are in the market for a phono preamplifier, headphone amplifier, or DAC, have a look at the On Sale category next week for units at about 40% discount from RRP.

For those of you who like unusual record players here's a link to a [Kickstarter project titled "the world's first intelligent turntable"](#).

Musical regards

Brian Maddern

Decibel Hi Fi & Soundring

Product News
NITTY GRITTY

Late last year we received news that Nitty Gritty, a company that had been making record cleaning machines for over 40 years, had ceased operations. This was of particular concern for the many thousands of customers with their machines because the availability of supplies, accessories, and spare parts was in doubt. We are pleased to advise that we have just received an email announcing that the business has been sold as a going concern and the entire current product range will be available again within a few weeks.

JELCO TK series tonearms

There are 9" and 12" models of the new TK-850 and TK-950 tonearms. Both feature special knife edge bearings, with the 950 also having dynamic vertical height adjustment. They also both feature



a two part counterweight which allows a wide range of cartridge weights to be accommodated. Prices are \$1380 for the [TK-850S](#), \$1510 for the TK-850L, \$1850 for the [TK-950S](#), and \$1990 for the TK-950L.

There are two other lower priced models being released this month, and we will provide details in the next newsletter.

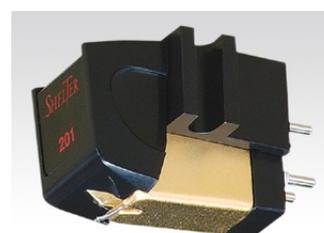
In the meantime we still have 3 of the SA-750D tonearms left at \$695.00.

ICON AUDIO

I was surprised to see that Icon Audio now have a version of the famous BBC LA3/5A loudspeaker in their product range. Most of the Icon Audio loudspeakers are large and heavy so the pricing in Australia is not very competitive (except for the fact they are "made for valves" so quite efficient). The LA3/5A design is possibly the most awarded loudspeaker ever, and there have been quite a few companies over the last 40 years licenced to manufacture it. We will have a pair available for audition in our Brisbane demo lounge next week. Pricing is very competitive compared to other current offerings at \$2995 a pair. (not on the webstore yet).

New cartridges - SHELTER & GOLD NOTE

Shelter is a Japanese manufacturer specializing in moving coil cartridges, but they also have a very attractively priced moving magnet cartridge, their [Model 201](#). We are now stocking this model, and its [replacement stylus assembly](#).



The Italian manufacturer Gold Note, also has an entry level moving magnet cartridge, made for them by Audio Technica. The [Babele](#) features a specially dampened body to reduce vibrations and provide a cleaner signal, and it's just \$187.

PRO-JECT AUDIO VC-S Record Cleaning Machine

Pro-ject Audio have established a good reputation for their wide range of turntables, and have recently expanded into electronics and accessories, so it was no surprise when we learned they were going to offer a [record cleaning machine](#).



I had the opportunity to try one out recently. It's quite a large machine, and comes fully assembled apart from the suction arm and record clamp. It only took a few minutes to have it ready for operation.

There are two switches on the right hand side, one to turn on the motor which rotates the record in either direction, and the other one turns on the vacuum motor. The procedure is to place an LP on the spindle and base plate, then place the top plate on top and screw down the knob so the record is held firmly. You then turn on the motor and while the record is rotating apply the cleaning fluid and use the supplied brush to work the fluid into the grooves. Once the record is coated evenly with fluid you swing the vacuum arm into position and turn on the vacuum motor. After 10 or so revolutions the record will be nearly dry and you can turn off both motors, undo the clamp, and flip the record over to do the other side.

The unit has a bottle to collect the dirty fluid, and the side of it is visible on the left side, so you can see when it is necessary to be emptied. The fact that you can apply the fluid onto the record while it is on the sub-platter is also a good feature.

In comparison to the [Record Doctor V](#) this is a nicer unit, but it still has the problem of being very noisy, and the end result is the same. At \$899 it is nearly three times the price of the RDV, and highlights the fact that the RDV is such good value. As a result over 6000 have been sold, including more than 300 by us in Australia.

JICO News

After over 50 years of manufacturing replacement styli which get sold around the world under a variety of brand names (like our Soundring), Jico is intending to become a well known brand in its own right for state-of-the-art styli. They have been providing an advanced shape Super Analog Stylus for some years, particularly for Shure V15 cartridges. Their latest version is titled [neoSAS](#), features a sapphire stylus, and is now available for a wider range of Shure cartridges.

They also have developed a moving coil cartridge, named SETO-HORI. It features a ceramic body with a wood mounting plate, and a boron cantilever and neoSAS diamond. They have sent me a sample, and my initial assessment is that it performs well against other cartridges in the \$800 to \$1500 price range. We don't have final pricing yet, but I expect it to be under \$1000. Once stocks are available we will add it to the webstore with full specifications and my review.



Gold Note - Limited Edition Records

Each title is a limited edition of 500 records.

Mixed and Mastered at Studio il Poggio, Montecatini Italy.

Recording, Mixing and mastering by Flavio Lenzi, recording assistant Francesco Nisi.

Edited from original master tape by GN RECORDS powered by Gold Note electronics.

THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ON THE WEBSTORE. ORDER BY EMAIL. WE WILL ALLOCATE STOCK STRICTLY ACCORDING TO THE TIME THE EMAIL ARRIVES.

STEVELAND by Steveland - It is a cover assembling group created to reinterpret some of the most famous Stevie Wonder tracks in Jazz style. This record got a high rating in TNT Audio: http://www.tnt-audio.com/sorgenti/goldnote_vasari_e.html (down in the page) and could be

an interesting discovery for the audio lover of the genre. **7 available @ \$50**

SWING A SUD by Maurizio Geri - he is a guitar player involved in the famous Manouche Jazz style that is a Swing with gipsy influence, in a Django Reinhardt style. It is an elegant very good record could touch the sensitivity of audiophile enthusiast well. (this song is one of the 10th also sung, otherwise is nice instrumental): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsEAD81HihU>

1 available @ \$50

RETURN AT CARNEGIE HALL by The Weavers - Probably the most famous record of the American folk group of the 50'/60' playing original standard live, very good. This record is really really well recorded. I compare it with the version of ANALOGUE PRODUCTION both CD and Vinyl beat the USA label completely. **2 available @ \$50**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSSZUx-zovM>

Sgt. PEPPER AND THE LONELY HEARTS by The Beatles - Don't think there is any need to introduce it, only say that is one of the best record we have ever released. Collectible and price deserves no comments... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLIWlfKO0sU> **8 available @ \$65**

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON by Pink Floyd - Even here I don't think there is any need to introduce it. Collectible even because only few copies made in Folder style. **7 available @ \$65**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgXozIma-Oc&list=PLEQdwrAGbxncZFLH4KETau3-uncnqVtWD&index=4>

GN RECORDS Turntable Setup & Test Record

Includes tracks for channel identification, channel balance, phase test, cartridge alignment & bias setting, tracking ability, wow & flutter, anti skate, residual system noise. **8 available @ \$50**

Malpa - our company's charity

We are very pleased to be a supporter of an organisation which has implemented a program to address the incidence of otitis media (glue ear)

The logo for Malpa, featuring the word "malpa" in a stylized, lowercase font. The letters are white with a red outline, set against a black rectangular background.

to address the incidence of otitis media (glue ear) [REDACTED]
in indigenous communities. Please visit their
[website](#) to find out about their Young Doctors program.



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