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Decibel Hi Fi Newsletter No. 63 April 2018

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Dear Brian

First, a heads up.

Paula and I will be attending the High End audio show in Munich in early May and then will be swanning around Europe in a campervan for the rest of the month. As a result there will be some changes to our operations.

If you have need of advice, quotes, service jobs, tradeins, or special orders you will need to make enquiries in the next couple of weeks or else wait till our return on June 11th.

Products that are not in stock will be removed from the webstore temporarily, however orders for all other items will be processed and posted out as normal.

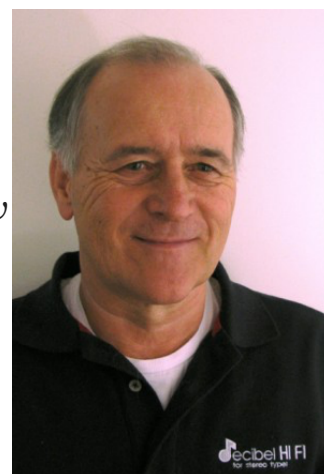
The office phones will not be manned, but messages and emails will be answered. Pickup of orders will not be possible.

We hope this disruption to our normal operation will not inconvenience too many people.

Watch out for the next newsletter from High End Munich.

Musical regards

*Brian Maddern
Decibel Hi Fi & Soundring*



PS. [The New Atlas online magazine has a story about a new method of creating "high definition" vinyl records.](#)

New Products

We have sold hundreds of small stereo amplifiers over the last 16 years. Most were based on the Tripath TA2024 IC and referred to as T-amps. They produce very high quality sound at really low prices, although with limited power output. Nowadays there are lots of similar amps using Class-D chips, which are even more efficient and capable of higher output power.

One example is the [Digitech AA-0487 portable stereo amplifier](#). As well as being able to be powered by a 240V power pack (included) it also can have 8 AA batteries fitted for up to 8 hours playing time. This makes it useful where mains power is not available (eg camping).



Jelco Tonearms

We now have stock of the Jelco [TS350S](#) and [TS550S](#) tonearms. The 350 is a basic well designed and beautifully finished tonearm that provides excellent performance for the price in either 9" or 12" versions. The 550 series is very similar to the 750 series and offers oil damping to reduce resonances and make it very versatile for a wide range of cartridges with different weights and compliances.



Also we were successful in picking up a couple of the remaining stock of [SA-750DB](#) (black) tonearms. So if you have been lusting over an SA-750D this is your last chance to get one.

[Discwasher vinyl care system](#)

In the 70s Discwasher brushes and their D4 fluid were popular products to clean vinyl records. Although not a deep wet cleaning process they provided a very convenient way to clean records that were not particularly dirty. Many people still have their brushes and we have been selling the D4+ fluid for several years.



We now also have the complete kits, which include the brush, a bottle of D4+, a stiff little brush to clean the large brush, and a storage pouch. It's a convenient little pack for people with only a small number of records that don't need thorough cleaning.

Turntable mounting solutions

We often get requests for techniques to solve the problem of cartridges jumping off the record when someone walks close. This is a common problem in houses with wooden floors and is due to the floor actually moving up and down by several millimetres or even centimetres - it is referred to as footfall. Usually the problem is caused by shrinkage of the beams which hold up the floorboards. The only way to fix the problem is by getting underneath the floor and putting in spacers between the beams and supporting posts. However, that's not always possible.

Many people enquire whether vibration absorbers like Magic Hexa or Vibrapods can help the situation. The answer is "probably not".

There is a relatively simple alternative solution, and that is to mount the turntable on a shelf attached to a wall. There are some specially designed units available to do this from manufacturers like Pro-Ject and Rega, but in many cases a generic



shelf will probably work just as well. The photo is of the [Pro-ject WallMount 1](#) which is a very reasonable \$199. They also have a larger and more sophisticated WallMount 5 at \$349 which includes vibration damping.

Having provided a stable platform for the turntable which avoids the footfall problem, then vibration isolators might then offer a further improvement by preventing vibration from the shelf feeding back to the cartridge when it is playing a record. We encourage experimentation with [MagicHexa](#), [VibraPods](#) etc by having a money-back trial policy.

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) in indigenous communities. Please visit their [website](#) to find out about their Young Doctors program.

The Malpa logo features the word "malpa" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are colored in a gradient from red to yellow, set against a solid black rectangular background.



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