

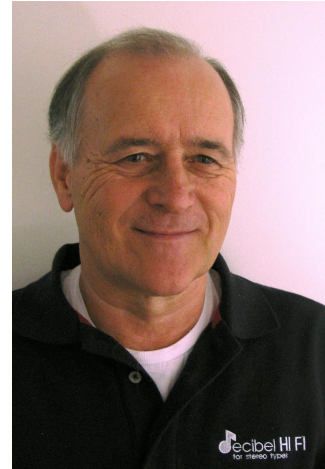
The monthly news for stereo types.



No. 42, June 2016

Hello Brian

As a vinyl record specialist, I get annoyed by some of the cheap turntables that are offered by unscrupulous importers via their retailers. A turntable that includes a ceramic cartridge should not be on the market as it is a technology that was surpassed in the 60s. The reason for this is that the frequency range it is able to reproduce is limited and the tracking force (5g or more) is excessive, causing records to be irretrievably damaged after only a few plays. This also makes me concerned that many people are reviving old radiograms and record players that also use these ceramic cartridges that cause premature wear and damage to their precious vinyl records. Despite the aesthetic appeal and emotional attachment that goes with some of these units I think many people fail to appreciate how good vinyl records can sound and that these older players are just not capable of good reproduction.



Nevertheless, I understand that some people just want to play their old records and are not interested in a hi fi system that involves a turntable, amplifier and speakers and considerable expense. For that reason, I have decided to add a modest music system to our product list on the [Sounding website](#). My primary criterion for a system that includes a turntable is that it will play vinyl records well and without damaging them. A brief overview is below and my full review is on the new Sounding website.

As we operate two websites ([DecibelHiFi.com.au](#) and [Sounding.com.au](#)) a lot of our time is spent updating them, and we are always looking to make improvements. As a result we have changed our ecommerce platform for Sounding. This may result in some downtime, so if you are unable to place an order please phone us so we can serve you manually. One of the improvements will be a better search function, which will enable you to more easily identify the replacement stylus you need for a particular turntable. We are also changing the way payments are processed through PayPal and this might also involve a period where you are unable to checkout on both sites for a short period. Once again, if you phone us we'll process your payment manually.

June is traditionally a month when businesses take stock and look to clear our products that have been sitting around too long. Well, that's the same for us, so we will be moving products into the [clearance category](#) and drastically cutting prices to move them on. Check it out regularly for a bargain.

There are two hi fi shows on in Melbourne this year. The first is the [International HiFi Show](#) on July 1st to 3rd at the Pullman Mercure Hotel, Albert Park. We won't be participating as an

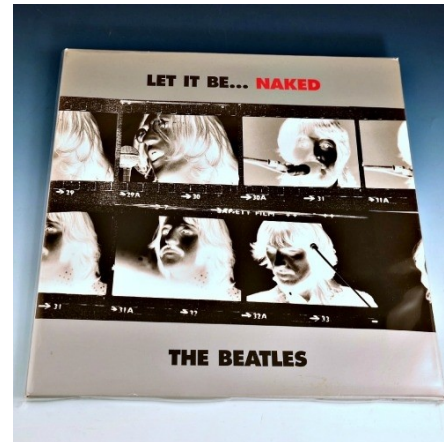
exhibitor but I will be going on the Saturday to have a look and listen.

Musical regards,

Brian Maddern

## New Oversized Outer Sleeves

Some double and triple LP sets will not fit into our normal outer sleeves, so we have introduced an oversized version of our popular Ultimate Outer 5.0. At 328 x 328mm these will also accommodate some of the recent LPs that have larger than standard jackets. We have made the pack size just 10, as most customers will only need a few. The code is [sc9390](#), price is \$22.00.



## The Mat is back

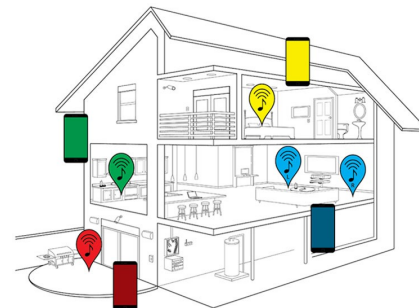
Over most of the last 13 years we have been selling graphite turntable mats from Boston Audio, USA. Unfortunately, due to other business interests, the owner of Boston Audio was unable to continue manufacturing the Mat 1 and Mat 2 and other products so they have not been available for several years. Now, in conjunction with Sakura Systems a single version, [The Mat](#), is back on the market.

I consider the graphite mat to be the best after market platter mat I have tried, and have sold dozens for use on a wide variety of turntables. We are so confident of this new version we are happy to sell it on a money-back trial basis. An initial shipment has just arrived.



## How to save \$00s on a multiroom home audio system

There are several multiroom home audio systems on the market. For many years Sonos has been the market leader, now there's Denon's Heos, and several others. They are expensive, and don't allow you to use your existing equipment. I have experimented with audio transmitter/receiver devices for years but have not been able to find one that meets my needs, until I discovered the Dayton Audio Hi-Fly™ Multi-Room Wi-Fi Audio Technology.



The only hardware needed is a small wi-fi receiver [WFA02](#). Each one of these you employ is connected to an amplifier/speakers. This is similar to other wi-fi receivers that we sell such as the AirTry and Pro-2, but the really clever bit is the free Hi-Fly app that controls it. This enables you to control multiple WFA02s either individually or synchronised. This is a major improvement as I have found that previously when using multiple receivers the slight difference in delays between them is very annoying when they are in adjacent listening rooms. You can also send different music to different units and even use several devices at the same time. The Hi-Fly app lets you play music stored on your device, or stored on any computer on your home network, or stream from a number of services including Spotify.

The strength of your wi-fi network is a major factor in the success of this system. I was able to get three units working in synch in three separate rooms on the same floor, but had difficulty when they were on different floors. You may need to experiment with the position of your wi-fi router or even use additional access points.

The [WFA02](#) units are \$145 each, so considerably more expensive than the AirTry, but the cleverness of the Hi-Fly software makes it worth the premium if you need a multiple room setup. The features I particularly like are the fact that I can utilise existing equipment (and I have lots) plus the fact that the units can be synchronised (which is important when they are in adjacent listening areas).

### **Modest music system provides a wide range of facilities and includes a reasonable turntable.**



As mentioned above my main concern is that a turntable does not damage the records it plays, and for that reason I strongly reject the many cheap turntables on the market that use ceramic cartridges, a technology from the 50s that is incapable of reproducing the entire frequency range recorded and prematurely wears and damages vinyl records.

So I have been very skeptical of low priced turntables and multi-source music players. However, the other day I came across a [Digitech music system](#) which showed some promise because it included a turntable with an Audio Technica moving magnet cartridge. It is not without its faults, but for \$399 could suit someone looking for a record player that won't damage records and also includes radio, CD, USB & SD or MMC cards, even an alarm clock. It also allows you to record from the turntable to USB or memory card or play from them. I have posted a review on the [Sounding website](#).

Decibel Hi Fi | 07 3344 5756 | [enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au](mailto:enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au) | [www.decibelhifi.com.au](http://www.decibelhifi.com.au)

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