

The monthly news for stereo types.



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Hello Brian

Did you notice the change to our logo above. Those of you who have been customers for some time will know that we have always had a great range of vinyl related products. But newer customers and the general public may not realise that we are focussed on enabling vinyl enthusiasts to get the best from their record collections. Hence the addition to the tag line.

Everyone knows there is a revival of interest in vinyl, and we have been fostering it since 2002 - wow, that means we will be 15 this September.



Thank you to all those readers who had a look at our clearance sale list last month. There were many who took advantage of the discounts and grabbed a bargain. However, there's still plenty of items left so the discounted prices have now been put up on the webstore so that everyone has a chance to browse them. There's a section below with links to the relevant categories.

This month we introduce a new brand of upgrades for Linn LP12 turntables - Vinyl Passion. And there's a neat little amplifier from Pro-Ject Audio that is very versatile.

And on a lighter note there's a link to a radio article on playing 45s at 33. It's a bit of fun.

Musical regards

Brian Maddern

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LP12 upgrades

Linn Sondek LP12 turntables have been on the market since the early 70s, and over that time Linn have made numerous improvements so that the current models which look very much the same are much better performers. To their credit they have also made upgrade kits available so that customers could bring their LP12s up to the same standard as the new models. But the upgrades aren't cheap and you can spend several thousand dollars on them. Upgrades have also been made available by other manufacturers, like Origin Live with their DC motor kits and range of tonearms. Interestingly, Linn now offer a DC motor upgrade kit, and have released a succession of tonearms, cartridges and other improvements over the years.

One area of improvement is in the sub-chassis and suspension, and this is where Vinyl Passion (a trading name of the UK company The Missing Link) have focussed their efforts. They now offer a sub-chassis made from aerospace grade alloy, and special suspension springs.

We recently installed one of their kits and can confirm that it raised the level of performance significantly compared to a mid-80s model LP12. The customer had previously bought an IsoKinetik external motor controller and Origin Live Silver tonearm, so he now has an LP12 that rivals one of Linn's new models, but at a much lower price (still substantial however).

The [Vinyl Passion Unity-Two Sub-chassis Combo](#) with blue springs is \$1155, but this is good value when you consider that the Linn Kore aluminium sub-chassis upgrade is \$1895. Owners



of pre-1980s LP12s will also need the Cirkus main bearing upgrade kit at \$1145. These are substantial investments but a new LP12 with those components is about \$6500 so they still represent value for money. However, if you are considering a major upgrade to any turntable I suggest you have a chat with me to see if you may be better to trade it in on a new one.

There are many other upgrade components available from Vinyl Passion so please visit their [website](#). We can supply any of them, and also offer an installation service.

Pro-Ject MaiA amplifier



Pro-Ject Audio are mainly known for their impressive range of turntables, particularly the entry level and mid-priced ones. But they also build phono preamplifiers and other hi fi components.

The [MaiA is a stereo integrated amplifier](#) with 9 input options. Of course there is a PHONO input, and 3 other analog inputs, but there is coaxial, 2 optical, USB and Bluetooth.

This is what starters in ambitious home audio have been waiting for: a compact integrated amplifier with ultimate input flexibility, that won't compromise on sound quality.

MAIA offers all the digital and analogue input options you could hope for, combined with a dual mono amplifier stage that delivers outstanding audio, and a high-class 24-bit / 192kHz DAC stage. Despite the compact design, up to 9 source devices can be connected simultaneously.

The front-mounted headphone output, Bluetooth connectivity, and included remote control make this a superb and diverse component for home entertainment.

At \$699 this product is excellent value for money with a really intelligent combination of facilities. It can be the centre of a impressive basic hi fi system when teamed up with a [Debut turntable](#) and a pair of quality loudspeakers.

45s at 33

If you want to quickly see what this topic is all about, play the Dolly Parton song "Jolene" (which was originally released as a 45rpm single) at 33rpm. If you don't happen to have a copy of that 45 you'll find several versions on youtube. Here's a link to the most popular one

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doz1QJ7LwjA>

This example has spawned a great deal of discussion and search for other examples and I happened across a Radiotonic episode recently which I found interesting. You can listen to it at Radio National.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/radionational/45s-at-33/6425356>

I am more interested in the quality of music reproduction from vinyl records rather than oddities like this, but thought some of you would find it amusing.



The Clearance Sale Continues

All the products left from the May clearance list have now had their prices adjusted on the webstore so can be ordered online.

One major addition is our main demo speakers. These superb Whatmough Signature 15 monitors are now nearly a year old and are being offered with their stands for \$4000, which is 22% discount off RRP.

The categories to browse are [ON SALE](#), [CLEARANCE](#), [SECONDHAND](#), and [DEMO](#).



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