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Decibel Hi Fi Newsletter No. 58 November 2017

Dear Brian

I was fortunate last month to be invited to the Nippon Precision Industrial Jewel (JICO) company's factory for an international sales meeting and factory tour. I was amazed to see the process of producing replacement stylus assemblies. Each step involves manual dexterity and precision. I have written a [blog article](#) with photos which is on the Decibel Hi Fi website. There's also a brief summary below with links to some YouTube videos.



JICO also produce the Super Analogue Stylus (SAS), an advanced shape diamond tip that is available for several brands and models of moving magnet cartridges.

We are continuing the discussion regarding vinyl record production with several interesting article links below.

And the [Malpa organisation](#) that we support reports on some of the results being experienced with their Young Doctors program. These Young Doctors are aged 9 or 10 - have a look at the statistics arising from this innovative approach to indigenous health.

Musical regards

*Brian Maddern
Decibel Hi Fi & Soundring*

JICO Visit

Hamasaka is a town on the west coast of Japan's main island, about 3 hours drive from Osaka. Over 200 years ago a local industry developed making sewing needles. In 1959 the current company was started by the grandfather of the current president. They initially made steel needles for gramophones and then commenced making diamond tipped styli in 1964.

They can make 2200 different styli models, all by hand. To find out what is involved in the production of their styli [take this link](#).

As well as manufacturing replacement stylus assemblies for older turntables they have developed a special type of stylus for audiophiles. The [Super Analogue](#)

[Stylus](#) uses a micro-ridge diamond for the best possible tracking of a vinyl record's grooves, and is available for some Shure, National Panasonic, JVC, Denon and several other brands and models of cartridges. A unique moving coil cartridge will be available in the new year.

Many people would have never heard of Jico, as their styli are mainly sold in bulk to distributors who market them under their own labels, like Soundring. But this will change over the next few years as more and more products will be sold with the Jico branding.

[There are three short videos available](#). The first shows the Hamasaka location.

The second shows the styli production processes, and the shots of the injection moulding machines which produce the coloured plastic grips of each stylus assembly are very interesting.

The third video is an interview with Marita Sensei, the master technician who makes the SAS styli.

My visit to the Jico factory was memorable, their management and staff treated their visitors like royalty. Their pride in their manufacturing prowess was obvious, and I am sure their name will become synonymous with high quality replacement stylus assemblies.

[Jico visit blog](#).



Vinyl Record Production

There is now a page on the website with a listing of recommended brands. I'll add to it as more suggestions come in.

<http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/recommended-vinyl-record-brands/>

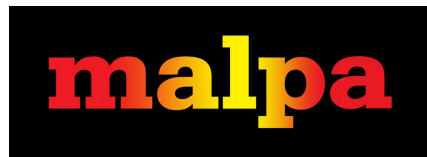
[A modern vinyl record pressing plant will be opening in Melbourne next year.](#)

Most vinyl record masters are cut at normal 33 speed. But there is an advantage in cutting them at 45rpm, and even better is to cut them at half speed. [An article by Andrew Murphy of What Hi Fi reveals why.](#)

We mentioned in an article recently that vinyl record quality has been reduced due to the use of inferior digital masters. [Here's an article](#) to discuss that issue.

Malpa - Young Doctors program

They have run projects in NT, NSW, ACT, Vic and SA. Projects are not just "one-offs" but run consecutively in communities. By the end of this year there will be about 1,000 Young Doctors and we are geared up to train 450 next year. The results:



- School Attendance usually rises to 87-98%
- 100 % of Young Doctors reported thinking about working in a job after completing school
- 98 % reported feeling happy to come to school since becoming Young Doctors
- 100 % reported they are happy to see a doctor since participating in Young Doctors
- 100 % reported sharing their new learning with other children and families
- 100 % reported knowing more about Aboriginal culture
- 100 % of parents reported that their child's school was more supportive since they offered Young Doctors
- 99 % were able to identify 1-3 people within their community to ask about healing (they mentioned Elders, parents, health professionals and teachers)
- 3 in 5 highlighted that they most enjoyed learning from Elders and Aboriginal community leaders

Most importantly the kids love coming to school because it is relevant and fun. Some schools run the projects on Friday afternoons when school attendance plummets. The kids all come along. This pattern is consistent across all their projects.

To find out more visit malpa.org.au



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