

Issue 3/2022 · 5,90 €



ANALOG HIFI AND VINYL CULTURE





MUCH MORE THAN NOSTALGIA

Be honest: Looking at the title of this LP issue, you also briefly felt propelled half a century into the past, right?

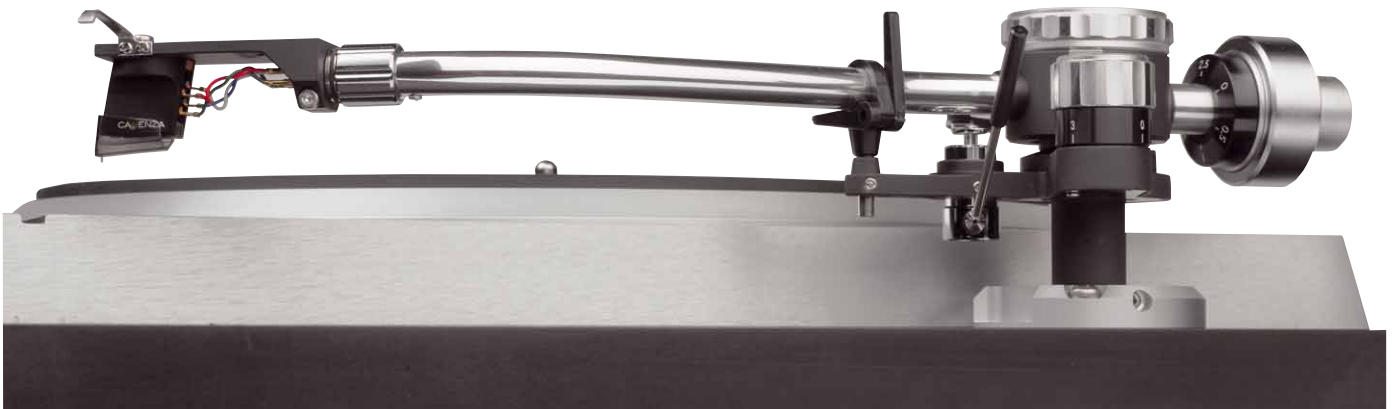


*Not much to look at,
but sound-wise it's
a blast: the AIE 751*

And there's a good reason: What you can partly see there doesn't just look like Technics components from the Q seventies – it is one. But how is it possible that, in 2022, we declare a record player to be a cover model that saw the light of day in 1975 and has definitely not been built since 1982?

Okay, first, a little history: The device in question is the Technics SP-10 MK2 turntable. It succeeded the SP-10 in 1975, which appeared in 1969, and was the first ever mass-produced direct-drive turntable. Between 1982 and 1986, there was the successor model SP-10 MK3 and since Technics' reboot in 2018, the SP-10 R. The MK 2 is

*Jelco's TK850S is a smart
addition to the Technics drive*



the classic par excellence; like its counterparts, it consisted only of a turntable unit and a power supply. That first had to be built into a den and supplemented with a tonearm to make it a unit ready to play. The SP-10 is a radio drive designed for relentless reliability and technical quality. Its synchronization values and ability to reach its rated speed after only a quarter turn of the platter are legendary to this day. And now someone comes along and puts a turntable on the market that is based on brand new SP-10 MK2 turntables. The man's name is Michael Altmann; he runs an engineering office in Mainz, and since his first encounter with the SP-10 MK2 more than 25 years ago, he had the idea that it might be a good idea to stock up on the devices. And so he bought up the entire remaining stock of a then large dealer and stored it in the unopened original packaging in a perfectly air-conditioned, professionally monitored environment for 25 years. Last year, Michael Altmann thought the time had come to lift

his treasure and build a complete turntable based on the SP-10 MK2. It is now available for purchase, fully equipped with tonearm and cartridge. The bad news is the price: The „Turntable 751“ costs EUR 34600 fully equipped. Michael Altmann argues that, quite the engineer that he is, as „quite normal industrial calculation“ and points out that 25 years of storage costs have also been included here.

From a purely visual point of view, the 751 has a pleasantly simple appearance. It is determined by the almost square silver-colored turntable embedded in a 20-millimeter thick black anodized aluminum plate. To the right of the turntable is another classic that is no longer available: a nine-inch Jelco tonearm. This manufacturer ceased operations last year after a hundred years in business; Michael Altmann has also stocked up on enough material. The tonearm sits in the standard mounting collar, which is deliberately screwed tightly to the base; Michael Altmann considers the most

Teammates

Phono preamplifiers:

- **DS Audio DS 003**
- **Malvalve preamp three phono**

Integrated amplifier:

- **Thivan Labs 811 Anniversary**

Loudspeakers:

- **DIY Focal / JBL**

Competitors

Turntables:

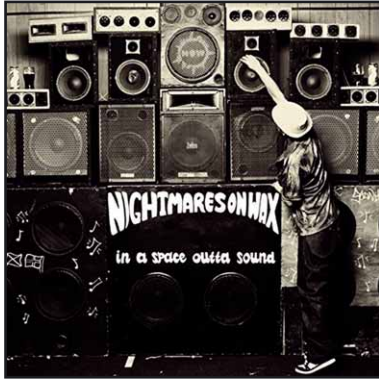
- **Technics SL1000 MK2 / EPA-100**
- **TechDAS Air Force III / Reed 3p / Reed 1x**

Cartridges:

- **DS Audio DS 003**
- **Ortofon Per Windfeld Ti**

A – non-folding – dust cover comes as standard





What we played

Nightmares On Wax
In A Space Outta Sound

Don Ellis
Soaring

Asteroid
S/T

Led Zeppelin
How The West Was Won



*Ortofon's smallest
cartridge with
Replicant 100 diamond
is standard equipment*

*Technics chocolate brown
equipment fronts are legendary
to this day, like that of the SP-10
power supply*



rigid possible connection between the tonearm and platter axis very important. There is more to the unit than first meets the eye: For example, there is the heavy brass block under the driver on the left side – this serves to place the center of gravity of the turntable precisely on the position of the platter axle.

The SP-10 MK2 was not intended to „stand on its own two feet,“ but here it does. For this purpose, the designer has put some effort into damping elements, which should enable the best possible decoupling of the device from the ground. According to reports, it should sound noticeably better than with a suspended drive.



Built half a century ago, yet brand new: the power supply of the SP-10 MK2

Handling the device is an absolute pleasure for veteran HiFi fans. Being the owner of two Technics SP-10 MK2s in various stages of completion myself, I immediately feel at ease with the unit. It starts with the satisfying clack of the toggle switch on the front of the power supply and doesn't end with the presence of the wired remote for starting and stopping the platter. And indeed, everything runs a bit tighter than on my two oldies, which haven't spent 25 years in slumber.

A few words about the SP-10 MK2 itself: It was the first turntable to implement quartz stabilized speed control via PLL („Phase Locked Loop“). With no other technology, such speed stability is possible. Moreover, an adjustment is never necessary here. It feels amazingly modern after all these years. If you spend so much money on a turntable, you want security if something should break: With the SP-10 MK2, the problem is much smaller than with all other direct-drive turntables from the great era of Japanese turntables. The control uses digital standard („TTL“) chips, which are still produced. There are 14 of them, plus 108 individual transistors and 32 other semiconductors. The almost three-kilogram heavy platter of the device is screwed to the drive motor; otherwise, it would slip mercilessly at the acceleration rates that appear here. You can get a bit addicted to this motor just by pressing the large-sized start/stop button completely without any purpose. What the platter does in the process has something of what a Tesla does on the road.

The Jelco TK850S tonearm is a good choice. Extremely smooth-running knife bearings are used there, with 13.5 grams of effective mass; it is medium-heavy and gets along excellently with the Ortofon Cadenza Bronze. The manufacturer reports a bass resonance of ten hertz - precisely where we want it. The arm is adjustable in height, and the anti-skating is adjustable via a rotary knob. A high-quality tonearm cable (Jelco JA502) is included. Unfortunately, this robust and unpretentious tonearm is no longer manufactured.



The balanced cast platter bears stroboscope markings on its underside

The combination with the Cadenza Bronze was a good idea. It is the smallest cartridge in the Ortofon range with the Replikant 100 diamond, whose extremely fine and detailed reproduction has been noticed several times. This turntable complements that aspect with a foundation that is truly second to none. It only took a few moments of listening to the legendary Nightmares

The Jelco tonearm's cutting-edge bearings are located under the lid





The brass block shifts the center of gravity of the drive to the desired position



The drive comes in one hundred percent original packaging

On Wax album „In A Space Outta Sound,“ and I knew: I need to get busy with my two SP-10s. What Altmann's 751 delivers here in sovereign nonchalance doesn't happen often. Not overly hard but completely relaxed and tongue-in-cheek, the unit blasts the album's famous electronic escapades into the room. Unflinchingly, it keeps track of everything, and the projected space is large and stable if you can say that for

largely electronic music. The massive Wall Of Sound is impressive in any case. I don't like to say it: My beautiful original MK2 in obsidian frame with EPA-100 tonearm (it was called SL-1000 MK2 in the form) can't keep up. The fireworks that Don Ellis and his crew set off on „Soaring“ simply come across as more dashing, heated, and convincing via the 751. It's unbelievable how confidently the unit keeps track of the multitude of sounds. Some of this sound reminds me of the Technics SL-1000 R, whose bass performance I still consider the benchmark. This also works with more robust material: Swedish retro-rockers „Asteroid“ are certainly not suspected of caring about audiophile virtues. However, over the 751, their 2016 debut rolls dirtier and heavier than usual. And not even the vocals are lost in the noise of the guitar - great class. Well, dear readers, this one could be the table for the lonely island!

Holger Barske



The wired remote control is, of course, included

Altmann Industrieelektronik 751



- Price
- Distribution
- Phone
- Internet
- Dimensions (W x H x D)
- Weight

approx. 34,600 Euro
AIE, Mainz
+49 6131 5537746
aie.de
474 x 140 x 383 mm
approx. 22,5 kg

lp

Altmann
Industrie-
elektronik 751

International 3/22

» Compact, simple, absolutely smooth in handling, and an absolute stunner in terms of sound: This edition of the Technics classic is definitely worth a sin.