



## NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...

### RCD 1, 2 & 3 cones - available NOW with 4mm threads

We are sure you're all familiar with the improvements brought about by the application of RDC cones under audio and video components. Whilst RDC cones are effective under almost everything we've tried to date, there are many components which use 4mm threaded footers, which meant removing the standard feet and placing cones under the equipment, but now we can supply RDC cones with 4mm threaded hardware, meaning we can now offer cones in 4,6 and 8mm threaded variants. These new cones are especially useful on Minisub, Solus and Vision, where not only do you benefit from improved performance, but also the extra clearance under the unit allows large mains cables to fit more easily without requiring a sharp bend. We are sure these new cones will prove incredibly popular.



or wrapping it around a cable, or can be as sophisticated as installing it inside the equipment itself. It's attenuation characteristics are truly outstanding :-

All figures are in dB attenuation

10 Mhz	49
100 Mhz	48
200 Mhz	62
400 Mhz	53
800 Mhz	54
1 Ghz	49
2.4 Ghz	53 (802.11 B / G)
3.5 Ghz	54
5.8 Ghz	57
7.5 Ghz	61
10 Ghz	66
17 Ghz	55

The ability of this material to deal with the frequencies between 10 and 12 Ghz is particularly useful here in the UK, as high power digital satellite broadcasts exist in this band, whilst between 800 Mhz and 2 Ghz are the various bands utilised by the mobile phone network.

The material works by using a proprietary weave of carbon fibres which are then coated with a range of metals including Nickel, this 'fabric' is then coated on both sides with a polyester textile. This treated fibres are laid in a specific pattern with a combination of the treated fibres to deliver the broadband EMI/RFI protection. We would strongly recommend this product for CD,DVD, A/V receivers and digital processors, along with their attendant interconnect cables and mains cables. The improvements are both startling and very difficult to replicate any other way.

**I-LYN-ERS (from) £20.00**

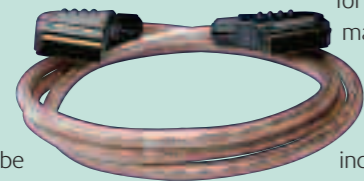
### Stillpoint ERS

We get sent many products to evaluate here, and some of them do give us cause to scratch our heads wondering if they really can work. When we received the ERS, which looked like thick paper, even we were sceptical about it achieving what it claims, then we tried it out in our listening room, and quickly stopped scratching our heads and started ordering. Stillpoint ERS protects your components and cables from RFI and EMI. It's installation can be as simple as placing it on a component



### Nordost Silver Screen SCART video cable

When Nordost turn their attention to a new cable design, you know the solution will be both innovative and highly effective. State of the art video cable



technology is never cheap and at £259 for 2M it was at the top of the marketplace, but now this cable is available for less than half it's retail price. For more details on this cable and the incredible offers available please see our special feature on this cable on the back page.



## Top 10 Products !

[ [click description to order](#) ]

### Knosti Disco AntiStat

Record cleaning system

**CL-KNO-DISCO £44.95**



### IsoTek System Enhancer

Full system treatment CD

**D-ISO-IBD-CDI £14.95**



### Optrix CD/DVD Cleaner

Get the most from discs

**CL-COM-OPTR £16.95**



### Nordost ECO3

Static inhibiting treatment

**CL-NOR-ECO3 £24.95**



### Nordost Silver Screen

The ultimate in Scart cables

**CB-NOR-VC-SS £89.95**



**Last Cleaning products £19.95**

**Marigo Signature Mat £59.95**

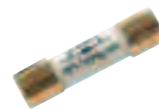
**AVIA Home Theatre Calibration Disc £39.95**

**SID CD Stabalising Mat £17.95**

**AudioPrism StopLight £19.95**

### Tuning Fuses

Another product which has recently sent us scrambling for the phones is this new audiophile fuse. Whilst we all know that dirty mains connections, low quality mains cables and insufficient current capacity can make a significant negative impact on the performance of your system. Taking all of this into account, it is remarkable that most of us still use fuses with low quality, rough terminals and poor fuse wire. We now carry a new range of ceramic fuses which use gold plated silver end caps which are designed to fit inside equipment, and these fit all of the IsoTek mains filters and Multi Way blocks. These are 20mm long items available in both 6.3 and 10A variants and we have found a considerable improvement in transparency, resolution and bass solidity when these fuses are used in a system.



**M-HIF-F £12.95**

Despite the theatrics surrounding the launch of CD, where jam was spread onto discs and then wiped off, and power sanders attacked discs, we have since come to realize that any aberrations on the disc surface will cause errors which then have to be filled in by the player guessing the missing data using the error correction system, the result of this is you are no longer hearing what was actually put on the disc. In short, keeping your CD's (and DVD's which have a higher data density than CD), clean and pristine is essential to getting the most from your digital media. Whilst many of us take our CD's and DVD's out and about with us when we're going on holiday or on long family car journeys, it is during these times that discs get dirt on them, and we've put together a collection of products to ensure your discs deliver optimal performance when you get home again.

### L'Art Du Son CD/DVD cleaner

Martina Schoener's L'Art Du Son record cleaning fluid turned the market upside down when it was released some three years ago. After perfecting this fluid, Martina turned her attention to digital discs, and has once again come up with an organic compound designed to thoroughly remove static from the disc surface and polish the surface to reduce error rates allowing the data on the disc to be consistently and accurately read. Competitively priced, non toxic and easy to use, L'Art Du Son disc cleaning fluid is undoubtedly going to be popular amongst music and home theater enthusiasts alike.

**L'Art Du Son CD / DVD cleaner £29.95**

### Last CD/DVD cleaner

It is now an acknowledged fact that for digital media to perform optimally, it needs to be kept clean to ensure low error rates and the accurate reading of data. Stalwart cleaning manufacturer, Last, a company

which made it's name in both stylus and vinyl cleaning solutions for analogue, has entered the marketplace with it's CD / DVD cleaning solution. This formulation has been developed to effectively remove grease, dirt and static from the surface of optical media whilst preventing particulate matter from making contact with the disc surface during cleaning and potentially marring the surface with microscopic scratches. Where Last is unusual is its ability to minimise the effect of scratches on disc playback, due to its chemical formulation, which minimizes data errors due to disc surface damage.

**Last CD/DVD Cleaner £19.95**

### Walker Audio Ultra Vivid Cleaner

Finally Walker Audio has released their new Ultra Vivid optical disc cleaning solution. Essentially Ultra Vivid, like many other solutions, removes static from the surface of the disc, but unlike most other cleaners it also removes the releasing agent which is used to allow easy removal of the disc from

the press. Ultra Vivid also refines the surface of the disc making it possible for the player to read the digital data from the disc more accurately with far lower error rates. This refinement of the disc read surface, effectively improving the optical clarity of the plastic which covers the actual data carrying surface, is unique to Walker Audio and it's Ultra Vivid Solution. This chemical technology has proven itself not only on CD and DVD, but also this is applicable to SACD, DVD-Audio and even good old laserdiscs, in fact any optical media in your system will benefit from treatment of Walker Ultra Vivid  
**Walker Audio Ultra Vivid Cleaner £59.95**

### Audioprism Stoplight Pen

It's back!! After a prolonged absence, and being bombarded with countless e-mails and phone calls from you all asking us to get the Audioprism Stoplight pen back in stock. After 18 months of phone calls, e-mails and meetings in the darkest corners of the Hi Fi world, our efforts have finally borne fruit and we've managed to secure a stock of this excellent device.

We now have stocks of this pen which has become one of the most effective and dependable tweaks for CD available. Simply running this pen around the outer edge of a CD can transform almost unlistenable CD's into listenable discs, and can make a well recorded CD something truly spectacular. The pen works by preventing diffracted laser light leakage from the outside edges of the CD contaminating the (still analogue) light going into the reader, therefore this seems to allow for far more accurate recovery of the recorded data.

With a single pen able to treat more than 100 CD's the cost is tiny but the results are anything but. These are sure to sell fast so don't hesitate to pick up one of these pen's, or indeed enough to treat your entire CD collection, we know you won't regret it.

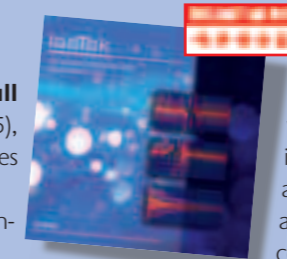
**Audioprism Stoplight Pen £19.95**



Whilst the breaking in of components is no longer disputed, this breaking in period can run to a couple of hundred hours, so anything which can be done to assist with this process is of considerable benefit, and whilst music has always been considered to be the ideal break in signal, but music does not have a completely equal distribution of frequencies and energy across the whole bandwidth. What we have here are a range of discs which offer optimised signals dedicated to breaking in your system, and breaking it in even quicker than regular music, and dedicated demagnetisation sweeps, which eradicate the magnetic fields which build up in your system.

Starting with the **IsoTek Full System Enhancer** (£14.95), this disc essentially comprises of three tracks, tracks one and two are full system burn-in and demagnetisation tracks, designed by the engineers at IsoTek to produce a signal with highly complex algorithms which has a specific energy dispersion to break in either a system with limited low bass extension, a system either with full range speakers, or with a subwoofer, the third and shorter track is designed to be used as a regular tune up track to demagnetise and effectively freshen your system, ensuring that it always runs at its best. By simply setting either track one or two on repeat through a new piece of equipment, you can ensure it is completely run in far more thoroughly than a musical signal alone would achieve, on average we've found it can half the run in time of any new component. The demagnetising element of the disc is also highly effective.

The **Densen DeMagic** (£12.95) disc is one of those products which has almost taken on a life of it's own, it has been a consistently strong seller because it keeps delivering excellent results in all systems. The DeMagic has a signal recorded on it which has been calculated to eradicate small magnetic fields which build up in your system. A simple run of this disc through your system will clean your system,



remove these magnetic build up's within your system, giving improvements throughout the audio band. After it's initial application, where it may take a couple of runs to completely clean your system, a simple run through every couple weeks is all that's

required to keep your system sounding at it's very best.

Finally we come to the **Musaeus USHER** disc (£14.95), USHER stands for Ultimate Stereo Hearing & Equipment Refresher. This disc was designed by acclaimed audio journalist Richard Black. This disc contains a range of burn in tracks, each has been tailored to assist in the burn in of a given component, whilst a demagnetisation track is included to eradicate magnetic fields which build up in your equipment. There are also a range of tracks which are designed to help train your hearing and finally a range of Richards favourite tracks to allow you to test your system.



## BUY ONLINE QUICKLY AND EASILY - click links below:

**Clearlight Audio RDC 1, 2 & 3 Cones M4** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Highly regarded isolation cones now available with M4 threads.

**Stillpoints ERS** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Crazy RFI & EMI paper - which in tests worked!

**Tuning Fuses** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Afordable upgrade fuses.

**Walker Audio SST** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

High quality and highly regarded contact conditioner.

**L'Art du Son CD/DVD Cleaner** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

From the makers of L'Art du Son record cleaner comes something for the digital age.

**LAST CD/DVD Cleaner** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

LAST move into CD & DVD cleaners, however the analogue range remains highly regarded.

**Audioprism's Stop Light Pen** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Improve the sound of CDs, quickly and simply with the light absorbing pen.

**IsoTek Full System Enhancer** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

One of the best burn-in and DeMag discs on the market.

**Densen DeMagic** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Does what it does on the packet!

**Richard Black's USHER CD** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Improve your hearing?!

### NEW PRODUCT FROM LAST ISSUE:

**Sophia Electric Princess 300B Mesh Plate Valves** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

One of the best kept secrets in tube design. Just wait for the reviews!

**Clearaudio 'Professional' Care-kit** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

If you own a turntable, then you'll need one of these.

**WBT NextGen Speaker Binding Posts** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Building upon the award winning NextGen RCA technology comes the ultimate binding post.

### IsoTek Factory Seconds - First Come First Served !

We have a number of 'ex-dem' and 'factory second' IsoTek units, these are a one off deal, and we cannot guarantee ever being able to make such an offer again. Each unit is totally reconditioned, and boxed as new, the only difference is that these are not to the usual high standards IsoTek normally offers.

**IsoTek Orion (2-Way) £255.00**

**IsoTek GII Vision £480.00**

As many long term customers will know we run a 30 day money back guarantee, however we cannot extend it to these discount items.

# Analogue Care - Products for Perfect Analogue

It is ironic that here in late 2006, the highest resolution, most widely available format available, and one of the cheapest, is still vinyl, the original audiophile format. There is still a huge amount of material which is unavailable on CD which has been released only on vinyl and in many cases material available on both formats is often preferred on vinyl anyway. For any vinyl enthusiast, the most valuable part of their system is their vinyl collection, often irreplaceable and built up over many years, it makes sense to protect this investment. The good news is, there are a number of products which can protect your vinyl, and your stylus, which should be the only thing that touches your vinyl apart from our cleaning products.

We'll start with the most basic record care product, the **Knosti Disco Antistat**. This has been consistently one of our biggest selling products, it's very affordable at only £45 and is easy to use. We love this product here due to it's ease of use, it is also great on those car boot sale items which have been rescued by an enthusiast

but is covered in year of dust, fingerprints, even the odd spilt drink and a little mould for good measure. A few minutes with the Disco Antistat and it is amazing what can be recovered from these forgotten treasures. This machine has even been purchased by those who already own the more expensive vacuum record cleaning machines (more of which later) to use alongside it. Many owners use the Disco Antistat first to remove the worst of the dirt and detritus from the record surface, and then use the vacuum machine to pull the last of the dirt out of the bottom of the grooves. When used on it's own the Knosti's internal brush assembly, which uses tiny filaments of different lengths to thoroughly clean the groove walls and deep into the grooves, is able to remove a huge amount of dirt, and it's even worth using this machine with brand new, unplayed records, as release compound, applied to the surface of the stamper to make the vinyl fall away from the stamper when it has been pressed, is still present on the surface of the vinyl. This compound not only

prevents your stylus from fully contacting the groove walls, but traps dirt and dust making vinyl maintenance that much more difficult. Even in the worst cases, a couple of times through this machine can yield truly remarkable results, this is a great machine and should sit alongside any record collection.



The next couple of machines are somewhat more expensive, but now we move to the realm of the vacuum cleaning machines.

These machines use a motorised turntable to spin the record, and a high power vacuum pump to remove the fluid from the records surface. This system is incredibly

effective because the fluid holds the dirt which is removed from the record surface, then when the pump mechanism starts up, the fluid, with the trapped dirt, is removed from the record, leaving it pristine. The vacuum machine which you'll find in the home of more enthusiasts, Hi Fi reviewers and record collectors is the **VPI HW16.5**. At £495 this represents a significant investment, but it's results are well worth it. In use this machine is easy, simply drop a record on the turntable, apply the fluid to the record surface with the brush, making sure you brush both ways (clockwise and anti



clockwise) to fully loosen all the dirt on the surface, then start up the turntable, rotate the vacuum arm over the surface, and start up the pump. When the record looks dry, turn off the turntable and pump, remove the record and it's ready to put back in it's sleeve or to play.



Even on brand new, apparently pristine vinyl, a run through the 16.5 will still improve the sound quality in a very noticeable manner, whilst older records which have never been cleaned will sound like new again, allowing you to hear the music you paid for. This is far and away the biggest selling vacuum cleaning machine we stock and is one we can very strongly recommend.

Whilst America has a reputation for massive, heavy duty engineering, but when it comes to heavy metal, the company you turn to is **Loricraft**, with their **PRC-2** and **PRC-3** record cleaning machines. The PRC-2 was originally designed by the technical editor of Gramophone magazine, Percy Wilson, but was then subject to five years of further refinement by the fanatical team at Loricraft. the result is this machine which

feels like it's built to survive a bomb blast. The machine consists of a turntable, which you place the vinyl on, you then apply the fluid, then a unique arm assembly starts tracking across the record to clean it with a hugely powerful vacuum pump. The result is a deeply cleaned record, and a machine which is engineered to such a standard as to be used all day, every day, without failure or overheating. The PRC-3 machine, as the name suggests, is closely

related to the PRC-2, still massively engineered but scaled down just a little to fit in a domestic environment, but still uses the basic engineering of the PRC-2. This

machine makes a very good argument for being called the connoisseurs choice.

Germany is a country famous for it's engineering, and German turntables have an astonishing reputation for their superb fit, finish, build and sound quality. One of the most celebrated German manufacturers is **Clearaudio**, and it was almost inevitable that sooner or later they would apply their design and engineering skills to a vacuum record cleaning machine, and sure enough they have, in the shape of the **Matrix RCM**. Available in a variety of versions the basic machine, at £1,545, is based around a very powerful motor and pump, with the fluid being applied to the vinyl at the touch of a button through a velvet padded arm, With the usual attention to detail to be expected of Clearaudio, there is a special groove around the perimeter of the platter to ensure no fluid spillage during the cleaning process. once the cleaning process has been completed, the vacuum pump is started up and the fluid is completely removed from the records surface. in response to complaints about the noise from their standard machine, and from all vacuum machines, the Matrix Silent was designed, which uses the same design as the Matrix RCM but uses very expensive, but extremely quiet, motors for the turntable and pump, making this machine dramatically quieter than any other vacuum machine we can name. Finally there is the unique Double Matrix RCM (£2,195), as far as we know the only automatic dual side cleaner available, which uses a unique floating drive system which allows both sides of the record to be cleaned and vacuumed simultaneously.



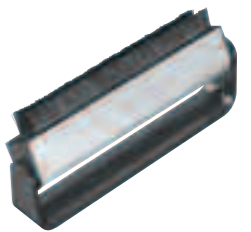
## Record Cleaning Brushes

Whilst no replacement for an actual record cleaning machine, cleaning brushes are an essential part of vinyl hygiene, they are invaluable to have next to your turntable for rapidly running over your records every time you listen to ensure your records, and stylus, stay pristine for longer. One name perennially associated with vinyl playback is **Goldring**, and their **Deluxe Record Brush** (£14.95) is

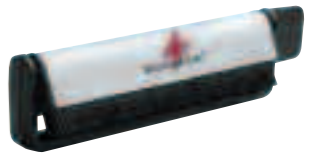


a classic design of two parallel rows of brush filaments separated by a soft felt pad, this is very similar in design and operation to the Hunt brush which was an essential next to any turntable in the 80's. German vinyl specialist **Clearaudio** have also produced a **Carbon Fibre Brush** (£13.95), again using two parallel rows of

carbon brush filaments, but with a static discharger built into the handle ensuring that not only does this brush lift dust and dirt from the surface of the records surface, preventing dust from being attracted back to it's surface.



The **Monacor Exstatic** (£7.95) record brush uses two parallel rows of carbon fibre filaments, like the Clearaudio, and should be considered an essential for any turntable owner. Whichever one of these brushes you choose, you can rest assured that they are doing their best to protect your record collection and prolong it's life.

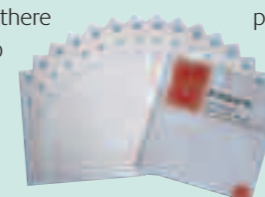


## Essential Extras . . .

Whilst all of the vacuum machines and the Knosti Disco Antistat have their own fluid designed to work with their respective machines, one fluid which we have found to not only be excellent value for money, to to also be incredibly effective on all of these machines, we've found nothing to beat **L' Art Du Son** record cleaning fluid (£27.95). Supplied as a concentrate, this fluid is none toxic and biodegradable. It is mixed with a gallon of distilled water to produce the cleaning fluid which can then be used with any of our machines.



It is no use cleaning your records then placing them back in dirty, used record sleeves, fortunately there are many options to replace your aging, torn, disintegrating sleeves with. The two leading replacement inner sleeves we have are the **Goldring Exstatic** (£11.95 for 25)



and our own unbranded sleeves (£14.95 for 50), both of which have proven very popular, use high quality paper sleeves and poly lining, ensuring the record is replaced in a sleeve which is both clean and is designed to stay that way. The other major enemy of good vinyl hygiene is static, and to help deal with this we have the **Nagaoka Anti Static Inner Sleeves** (£14.95 for 50), these have been a stalwart of the vinyl marketplace for more than 15 years and the design hasn't changed in all that time, simply because they got it right first time, the plastic is treated with a static inhibitor, preventing static build up and ensuring dust is not attracted to your vinyl.



With our range of vinyl care products, you can now preserve your record collection and keep it sounding great with ease, protecting your biggest investment.

# CD MATS - GROUP TEST ...

The discs under test come from Marigo and SID. SID (Sound Improvement Disc) supplied their model 14 and model 15 discs, both selling for £17.95, but with subtle differences to the diameter of the center hole to suit different transports, on with a 14mm hole, the other a 15mm hole. Marigo represent the high end, with their £59.95 Stealth 3D CD Mat and their £124.95 Signature CD Mat, rather misleading titles as both these discs are designed to work on all 5" discs including DVD, with different coatings on each side for CD and SACD, with coating optimized for DVD-Audio and DVD-Video on the other.

## SID

The SID disc is easy to use, though a little care is needed to ensure it is precisely aligned, as long as the matt side faces down it's ready to go. The vocals are improved noticeably, with far greater depth and solidity, making the vocals sound far more analogue and liquid, likewise the soundstaging is improved laterally, where there is a slight improvement, but most predominantly in depth, where the stage seems to go much further back, driving instruments consistently through the back wall. There are also improvements in solidity and space between the musicians, not only making individual images more palpable, but giving more believable space between the instruments, enhancing the feeling of 3 dimensionality in the presentation. There is



a slight improvement in decay information on acoustic instruments such as guitar and piano, suggesting that the noise floor has been lowered further. In the high frequencies there is a removal of the slight edge which is pervasive on many CD recordings. The X-Ray V3 was a little less responsive, especially in the area of decay, though this was reversed when the Tri Vista 21 DAC was connected, suggesting that the electronics after the transport in the standard player are just not letting the extra information through. This is an effect which was consistently noted whilst testing the other discs here.

## Marigo Stealth 3D

The precision build quality of the Marigo discs made itself obvious as soon as we removed these discs from their packaging, they are so precise as to be virtually self

aligning regardless of the transport used, as long as they are inserted the right way up, they work.

Despite it's higher price the Marigo seems to have moved playback up another level, not only are vocals brought forward into the



room, but they are far more natural and liquid, now sounding more analogue like, exhibiting greater fluidity. The soundstage walked straight through my side walls, with instruments accurately focused beyond the outer edges of the room, populated with solid, believable images whilst the back of the stage extended beyond the back wall. The spaces between the instruments are far more clearly defined, heightening the believability of the image. The bass seems subtly more extended. The tempo seems exactly the same yet there is more time between notes allowing far more information about the instrument and the technique of the musician to be appreciated by the listener. In the high frequencies there is very little change, with the biggest improvement being the reduction of hardness and edginess to the notes, much like what was achieved with the SID, without diminishing the resolving capability of the player.

## Marigo Signature

The Signature mat bettered the Stealth in every way. Vocals positively flowed into the room from the speakers, even on the MF X-Ray V3, which seemed less sensitive to mat effects than the Katana or the CDT-200, the vocals were far more solidly rendered on the soundstage than any of the other mats, even the Stealth 3D, with a real palpability and body to the vocal performance. The bass opened up significantly more than with any other product here, allowing me to hear right into the mix, allowing easy discrimination between the sonic contributors to the overall mix, and like the other mats here, the noise floor was

lowered, but in this case significantly lowered, allowing subtle decay details otherwise buried in the noise floor to be easily heard. The soundstage was slightly larger, but it was in the silence between the musicians that the greatest change could be heard, giving a sense of being able to walk amongst the musicians.

## DVD Performance

The SID showed real, dependable performance improvements, now the colour saturation was much better, with less noise in reds and blacks, whilst surround sound tracks seemed a little more dynamic, with high frequencies tamed a little, taking the hardness and edge off Dolby Digital soundtracks.

The Marigo twins, having already impressed on audio, continued their dominance with video. The performance improvement displayed by the Stealth 3D would have done a complete player upgrade proud, with not only greater saturation but an improvement in the vivid, 3D qualities of the image, once again moiré noise seen on video was greatly reduced, and now where reds and blacks were together on screen there was reduced colour bleed, sharpening the image, but achieving it in a natural manner. The Signature once again took all of this and further improved upon it, whilst delivering the most filmlike image of the lot, it was in the low frequencies where the Signature really delivered, with the most earthshaking bass now not only having far greater impact, but also having more control, giving more definition to transients, whilst speech, even with a sonic maelstrom underway, was effortless, retaining it's prominent place in the center channel and minimizing bleed of either music or effects in the center.

## Conclusion

The SID disc offers astonishing value, and we would recommend this to anyone with a CD, DVD or SACD player, at it's price an unqualified bargain. We would go as far as saying that anyone who uses digital discs, either for video or audio, needs one of these discs near their player, that's how valuable we believe the SID is. The Marigo



**BUY ONLINE QUICKLY AND EASILY - click links below:**

**SID 14** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

SID 14 with a 14mm centre hole suits draw loading Philips based transports.

**SID 15** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

SID 15 with a 15mm centre hole suits Pioneer 'turntable' transports, Meridian 505 and 508, and most top loaders, for example CEC, Theta, Spectral, Jadis JP1, Einstein, Berendsen CD1, Cambridge D300 and D500.

**Marigo Labs Stealth** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

One of the most cost effective CD mats on the market.

**Marigo Labs Signature** ..... [\[ click to order \]](#)

Another dimension in CD mat design.

twins are quite different animals. The Stealth 3D is triple the price of the SID, yet we feel this offers the best value of any disc here, pushing digital replay to a far higher standard than we have previously heard from this test system. It was expected that the best mat to bring an improvement in the order of changing between good quality mains cables of a similar price, but what was heard was a difference much more in keeping with changing the DAC. The Signature took everything the Stealth had done and elevated it to even greater heights. When you see the price of the

Signature, especially after hearing the Stealth 3D, you wonder whether Marigo can justify the price jump with a commensurate increase in sonic performance. Not only do the improvements fully justify the price increase, but it drove home just how compromised the transport mechanisms are in all but the very best machines available. The Marigo Signature can be unreservedly recommended to anyone interested in extracting the very best from their digital sources, and offer tremendous value.

## Technical - the science of tweaking

In the case of each supplier, each manufacturer believes a different problem needs rectifying. In the case of the SID discs, these both concentrate on damping the disc and ensuring constant reflectivity. CD's and any 5" disc for that matter, are not always pressed



perfectly concentric or perfectly flat. Whilst these variations are miniscule, once the disc is spinning at high speed this can cause the disc to wobble and flap vertically. Whilst these movements are miniscule, they are enough to make the laser focusing system work harder and increase the error rate off the disc. The SID disc is manufactured from a damping material designed to prevent these vibrations occurring in the disc, reducing the workload on the



embedded wire matrix disperses static build up.

laser focus assembly and the usage of the error correction system. The SID disc also endeavours to ensure consistent reflectivity, as the printing on the top face of the disc causes the disc's reflectivity to vary, again increasing error rate and potentially allowing stray laser light to fly around the disc

drawer causing further errors, the green colour of the SID disc is designed to give not only a constant level of reflectivity, but also to absorb any stray light in the disc drawer. The Marigo discs deal with all of the above, using a damping material as

the main disc substrate to damp the disc, whilst a special coating on the disc absorbs stray laser light in the drawer and an

## Equipment Used

To try and get the most relevant results, the discs were tested on a variety of CD players, acting both as stand alone CD players and transports to outboard DAC's including the



Musical Fidelity X-Ray V3, Inca Design Katana SE and a Shanling SCD-T200 SACD/CD. All of the

aforementioned players were used as transports to both a Musical Fidelity TriVista 21 DAC and Perpetual Technologies P-1A/P-3A Signature upsampler/DAC combination. The rest of the system comprised a Krell KRC-3 pre amp with Bryston 3B-SST power amp and Martin Logan SL-3 speakers using Townshend Isolda cabling throughout. All mains power was provided through Isotek Titan and Nova mains filters with Isotek Elite mains cables.

# The First Affordable Digital Force Gauge ...

Precious few products have caused as much excitement as this new digital stylus force gauge. The first test batch of these gauges was seized upon by us vinyl enthusiasts, and no one wanted to give them back!

No one can deny the importance in any vinyl playback system of correct Vertical Tracking Force (VTF). If set incorrectly this will result in loss of resolution, poor imaging, curtailed high frequency response, poor tracking and loss of dynamics. It can also result in premature cartridge failure, with excessive VTF damaging delicate suspension components in the cartridge, potentially damaging the cantilever and excessive force on the stylus tip causing chips and excessive wear, not to mention the potential damage which can occur to your valuable vinyl. Likewise too little VTF will cause distortion, loss of bass slam and dynamics, poor imaging and on dynamic passage the stylus can be thrown out of the groove, damaging the cartridge and scratching vinyl.

Whilst some tone arms have calibrated marks to assist setting the VTF, the accuracy of these leaves a lot to be desired, therefore an accurate gauge is an essential part of the vinyl enthusiasts toolkit. Whilst see saw type gauges have been popular, the most accurate type of gauge is a digital scale. Until recently these gauges have cost over £200, but now we have succeeded in sourcing a very accurate gauge for only £75.



Our new Katli Stylus Pressure Gauge is very compact, measuring only 96 X 43 X 20 mm and weighing only 50g, this can be placed on the platter of even suspended sub chassis turntables without fear of damaging the suspension. The gauge is supplied with a slide on cover to protect the weighing platform from damage, a spare set of lithium 1.5V batteries, a leather carrying case and a calibration weight. The gauge can internally monitor both it's local stability, to

ensure it's on a stable surface when a measurement is being taken, overload monitoring and a self monitoring calibration system, so the gauge knows when it needs recalibrating, which can be done easily in just a few seconds.

This gauge, whilst being low in price, is accurate to 1/1000th of a gram and highly dependable. This meter is suitable for VTF up to 5 grams, which covers all modern cartridges both moving magnet and moving coil, and due to it's design is made from completely none ferrous materials, making it suitable for use with cartridges with even the strongest magnets.

Not only is the Katli cheaper than competing digital stylus force gauges, but offers greater functionality, is more accurate, and offers greater consistency with excellent build quality. For anyone serious about their vinyl playback, the Katli is an essential, and affordable purchase.



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**NORDOST**  
MAKING THE CONNECTION

We still have some of the Nordost Silver Screen SCART cable available which featured in the last issue of I-Candy. This is selling quickly but we still have some of this remarkable SCART cable left from our initial large stocks in 2M, 3M and a very limited number of 4M lengths still available. This is an outstanding cable using a combination of Nordost Micro monofilament silver plated OFC conductors with Nordost's FEP monofilament helix for video with silver plated OFC conductors for audio and control lines. All individual lines are double shielded, with an overall shield encased in an outer jacket to ensure no breakthrough of external RFI into the signal path. With very high quality machined connectors using 24K Gold plated pins, this is a truly no compromise SCART cable. If you still have not purchased these cables, then do not miss out on this less than half price offer, and be ready for the Autumn and Ion Winter nights of movie watching ahead.

**WAS £265.00 - NOW £89.95 - LIMITED STOCK**



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