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Dear Brian,

Did you see the ABC New Inventors program last week? One invention was the Record ReVirginizer which claims to be a revolutionary way to clean records. With the great weakness of vinyl being its susceptibility to dust, static and scratches this invention is a breakthrough. See the article below.

While researching subsonic rumble in turntables the other day I stumbled across a comprehensive article on gramophone records. If you are interested in reading about the history of vinyl records - here's the link to it http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Gramophone_record

Being a turntable specialist we have had limited CD related products over the last 8 years but have now added a [CD/DVD category](#). Initially there are only a few products, but there is a sub-category where a selection of CD, DVD-A, SACD and DVD titles will be placed. We have been approached by an importer to help clear a diverse collection of CD titles, so will be adding them to the list over the next few weeks. There are limited quantities but labels include Chesky and DTS.

Our recent stocktake revealed a number of items that have been in stock for too long so have been moved to the [Clearance category](#). This includes several PURE Digital radios. More info below.

This issue is a bit of a smorgasbord of topics so I hope you find something to interest you.

Enjoy your music.

Brian Maddern
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Record ReVirginizer - record cleaning breakthroughs with gel

I missed the New Inventors last week but following a phone call from a friend was able to look it up on the ABC site and iView. Then I accessed the RRV website and shortly later I phoned the inventor Cory Stoddard. An initial shipment of bottles was on its way to me later that day.

The ReVirginizer is a liquid that is poured onto the LP and worked by hand into the grooves. Once it dries (4 to 12 hours later) it is peeled off, taking with it anything that was in the grooves. Simple! Find out more at www.recordre virginizer.com .

When it arrived I was keen to try it out. The instructions on the bottle are simple enough so I selected one of my long time favourite LPs from the 70s that I had cleaned several times but never been happy with. I played the first track and confirmed that we were getting an annoying number of clicks and pops although the record looked quite clean. Spreading the gel over the LP with my fingers was easy enough and then I waited until the next day to peel it off. It certainly looked like virgin vinyl and when I played it the sound was much better than previously, not perfect but pretty close, and the quietness between tracks was erie. I then tried a record I had purchased secondhand, it had also been cleaned on my Moth RCM2 but was still noisy, and the



surface had many light scratches. This was also considerably improved, although not as quiet as the first one, and some of the scratches were deep enough to be heard. I happen to have an SACD of this record (Dire Straits Brothers in Arms) so was able to compare the ReVirginized LP. Despite the hard life this LP has had it still sounds very good compared to the HD digital version.

So overall, I would have to say that I would give this product a big thumbs up. You have to consider that it is a time consuming process and at about \$4.00 per LP is not cheap but the results are quite remarkable. If you have irreplaceable records that you want to get back to virgin vinyl condition the [Record ReVirginizer](#) provides a simple, manual process. I would appreciate hearing from customers who try it about the results they obtain compared to their other cleaning methods.

Another cleaning product that has recently been added to the website is the [NAGAOKA CL-152 record cleaner](#). This is a device that consists of a roller that has a coating of a sticky gel-like material. When you roll it across an LP, any loose dust sticks to the surface. When it gets a bit dirty you simply wash it under the tap and continue using it. It is great for cleaning LPs that are in good condition just before playing.



Finally, a reminder about the [ONZOW Zerodust](#). This is a little pad of gel that you use to clean your stylus.



Ohm Acoustics loudspeakers

Last issue I announced our appointment as the Australian distributor for the Ohm Acoustics company and their range of loudspeakers using the unique Walsh drivers.

There is now a pair of the model 2000s in Sydney and we are happy to arrange in-home 7 day trials.

This pair will be sent to Melbourne in March so interested customers who wish to audition them can book a 7 day trial during March or April.

People who are near Brisbane can hear a pair in our demo room or in their own home.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category71_1.htm
www.ohmspeakers.com



Marigo Audio Lab

Marigo Audio Lab was established in 1989 to design and manufacture custom audiophile components. The designer, Ron Hedrich, has combined a love of music with thirty years of experience as an audiophile and a rigorous technical background in physics, research and development, and aerospace engineering to create a perfectionist's line of cables and resonance control products that redefine the state of the art in **audio performance**.

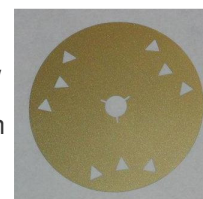
Some of the cable products are quite expensive and we will not be importing them unless we get specific requests. But there are some that seem very reasonably priced for the sonic improvement claimed.

In particular, they have a CD/DVD mat which prompted one reviewer to say:

"Every level of player I've tried the Marigo Labs Mat in, including five figure transports and players, the Signature Mat has taken the listening experience to another level".....review by Jason Victor Serinus, **SECRETS OF HOME THEATER AND AUDIO** July 2005.

Although I don't play a lot of CDs, I did try this mat and found it does make an audible difference, particularly in the area of imaging and separation between instruments. So, we are now selling it, with a money-back guarantee of course. But just don't ask me how it works, because I have no idea. Price is \$275, but we have a special offer on just three demo mats. Because they have been used, there are some finger marks on the under surface which don't affect its effectiveness but are unsightly. As a result they are available at \$220.00, a 20% saving.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category72_1.htm



The other group of products we are offering are Tuning Dots. These are available to treat tonearms, speaker drivers, even windows and room panels. I can't confirm an audible improvement like the Mats, but we are offering them on a moneyback basis so you are welcome to try them out at no risk. Being very small and light the postage involved is minimal.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category1_1.htm

Cheaper Record Sleeves

We now have cheaper LP record sleeves available. Made in Australia there are a round bottom inner sleeve and an outer sleeve. The outer sleeves are made from natural low density poly ethylene (LDPE) and have a slightly milky appearance. Size is 316mm wide x 324mm which is fine for single LPs but a bit small for doubles.

The inners are made from natural high density poly ethylene (HDPE) and are



309mm wide and 315 mm deep. Prices are \$7.70 and \$11.00 per 25, with 10% discount for quantities of 100 or more and 15% discount for 250 or more. Codes are MPOS and MPRBIS in the [Record Sleeves category](#).

Graham Slee offers

Graham Slee phono pre-amps have been widely acknowledged as providing excellent performance for their prices, and outperform many products much more expensive.

We find ourselves somewhat overstocked at the moment, so are offering a 10% discount across the range for the month of March. This offer is for newsletter readers only and will not be mentioned on the website, so if you would like to take advantage of it you will need to mention the discount in the Customer Instructions section when you place an order. It only applies to models in stock, but that includes Gram Amp 2, Gram Amp 3, Era Gold V, Reflex M2, Reflex C, Elevator, Voyager, Novo, and Solo. Tradeins welcome.

There is one demo unit Era Gold V which has a small scratch on the top and is available for 15% discount.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category48_1.htm



Trends Audio

There are now two variations of the popular iPod Line Output Dock Adaptor (LODA).

The LODA3.5 has a built in cable with a 3.5mm stereo phono connector for plugging into the 3.5mm socket of a PC, or stereo system, or car sound system.

The LODARCA is similar but terminates with a pair of high quality RCA plugs. They are priced at \$66.00 and \$77.00 respectively.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category54_1.htm



Athena Turntable

Last issue I introduced the Athena turntable from SRM Tech. It is classy looking with its clear acrylic plinth and sub-chassis, and has a high quality synchronous AC motor. It comes complete with an OEM (Rega) 251 tonearm but unfortunately that really lets it down. The 251 needs to be upgraded with a metal stub and counterweight before it sounds good enough, and if you add on the cost of those it moves the price up by nearly \$200.

But there is an alternative. The OEM (Rega) 301 has a metal stub and counterweight, and better cables for just \$110 more than the 251. So we've repriced the Athena with the 301 tonearm, a Decibel Universal Dust Cover, and the new AT7V cartridge - at \$1463 I think it is an unbeatable combination. Tradeins welcome.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category11_1.htm



New Audio Technica AT7V mm phono cartridge

My Audio Technica supplier gave me a tip last month that the new AT7V cartridge was worth a listen. As I have been a fan of Audio Technica cartridges for many years I read up on it and bought one to try. I put it on my Origin Live turntable and started to listen. Right from the beginning it sounded great. So I have added it to my product list and have them in stock.

It is a moving magnet cartridge with an output of 5mV, a tapered alloy cantilever, and Grain-oriented Square Shank Nude Special Elliptical diamond. The introductory price is \$198.00.

Although it is new to the U.S. it has been available in Japan for some time, and seems to be a descendant of the AT Signet range. Comments on its sound include *"It offers delicacy with a tinge of sweetness, crispness, clarity and resolution"*. As it tracks in the range of 1.75g - 2.25g it will suit the tonearms on many mid-fi turntables where we otherwise would recommend the AT95 series cartridges.

The AT440MLa at \$275.00 is still a better cartridge for those with lightweight tonearms as it tracks at 1.0 -1.8g and has a Micro-Line stylus. The AT110E is also suitable for better tonearms and is cheaper at \$110.00.

So if you want to freshen up the sound from your old turntable have a look at the Audio Technica cartridges on the website. http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category19_1.htm



CD/DVD Products

We have had requests for high quality blank CDs and so we will be stocking the Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab UltraDisc CD-R. They are not cheap but if you are looking for superior quality CD-Rs for recording treasured LPs these are as good as you



can get.

Many of our customers have had very good success with the L'Art du Son record cleaning fluid, we will now be stocking their CD/DVD Cleaner/Conditioner. We also have the Disc Doctor CD Cleaner kit.

A subcategory has been created for CD/DVD titles. Initially we have only included a few titles, but this will be increased over the next few weeks. We have access to the MOFI, Chesky, Linn, Stockfisch and other catalogues.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category72_1.htm

Garrott Cartridges

The Garrott Bros P77i was announced last issue and we have sold several to customers all of whom are delighted with it.

We are pleased to be able to advise that existing owners of P77 cartridges can upgrade to the P77i by purchasing the P77i stylus assembly - price is \$399.30.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category35_1.htm



EJ Jordan news

A new shipment of JX92S drivers is due in March. There has been a minor change in that they are now unshielded as standard, and shielding is an option. This is because they are now only rarely used alongside CRT monitors or TVs where shielding is necessary.

I have tested the JX150 bass drivers in 30 litre sealed enclosures and can report that the bass is fast, clean and extended, making them an ideal partner with the JXr6HD drivers or indeed any ribbon or electrostatic drivers. A design for a two way enclosure using 1 JX150 and 1 JXr6HD has been published. It's been added to the website and an enclosure kit will be available shortly.

http://www.decibelhifi.com.au/category49_1.htm

A new batch of the 8 litre bookshelf enclosure kits for JX92S has been made and has been improved by the addition of a central brace which makes it even stiffer and non-resonant. And a reminder that as well as being available as a kit we also offer a fully assembled but unfinished version.



Secondhand and Clearance

Over the last few years we have accumulated a large collection of classical records, but the time it takes to catalogue them has prevented us being able to add them to the website. So if you are looking for particular classical titles please send an email and I'll check if we've got it.

We also have a large cabinet, custom made to hold about 1200 LPs. It's 2450mm long, 480mm deep, and 800mm high, with 5 doors across the front. It was custom made with walnut veneered chipboard and we don't have room to keep it. If you are in or near Brisbane and need a home for your LPs please contact me. enquiry@decibelhifi.com.au or 3344 5756.

As well as the secondhand items currently listed on the website there are few items which aren't ready for sale or are coming in shortly. An ME 750 power amp in excellent condition, a pair of DUNTECH Baron D300 speakers, a NAD power amp, and a SONY XA20ES CD player. There's also a THORENS TD160 and TD125. If you are interested in any of those items please send me an email.

In the [Clearance category](#) we have several Pure digital radios which are the remaining stock from our initial shipment and need to be cleared to make way for new models as they are released.

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