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Subject: Re: Tracking weight and anti-skating force  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 12 Jun 2004 05:10:27 GMT  
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You know, John, you're exactly right. If the needle leaves the surface, it will have a sharp impact when it lands. An impact load is always more damaging than a steady consistent force. So your point is well taken. It's obviously correct. Mistracking removes part of the waveform and causes distortion. One of the best seat-of-the-pants tests for me was to listen to "Dear Diary" from the Moody Blues. The vocals on that song seem to really chatter an underloaded cartridge. I can always hear it when the tone arm was too light for the needle on that song. So if I'm somewhere that I don't have a test record and a scope handy for a first-time setup, I could always count on that for a reasonably good indicator of needle chatter. Another good one is Yes - Fragile, where practically all of the tracks containing piano will show the problem if it's there.

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