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Subject: Tone arm shapes

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2004 22:51:23 GMT

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Our recent discussions about drive types and tracking adjustments makes me want to bring up the topic of tone arm shapes. I expect some of you turntable gurus might be up on this stuff. Remson, Cope, maybe one of you guys have some good reference material on the subject. The object is simple: Keep the stylus in alignment as the record groove radius decreases and the needle moves. But perfect alignment of this delicate moving contact point isn't so simple. Some use straight arms, others use "S" curved and other shapes. These cause the needle movement to form an arc. So some use linear tracking mechanisms to avoid that. What geometry is involved in getting the best alignment? What are the best shapes and why? What tables use(d) them?

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