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Subject: Re: Straight vs. S-shaped Tonearms  
Posted by [Dominic](#) on Thu, 04 Aug 2005 21:04:27 GMT  
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I think the difference is cosmetic. The cart is rotating from the same fixed point in both cases. Also the straight arms turn the cartridge to a tangent at the headpiece anyway so there's no such thing as a straight arm. Years ago there was a great deal of discussion among audiophiles about the damping factor of different materials used in the tone arm, its mass, sympathetic vibrations, tracking ability, etc. I think that by 1980 most manufacturers had solved these problems.

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