
Subject: Re: Straight vs. S-shaped Tonearms

Posted by [hurdy_gurdyman](#) on Sun, 07 Aug 2005 20:42:55 GMT

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I haven't been able to find any info on a S shaped arm having better tangital tracking than a straight. Seeing as the location of the pivot vs stylus can be identical with both types, it shouldn't have any difference for tangential tracking. I have read where a straight arm has a shorter tube (a straight line is the shortest distance between two points), thus will have less mass (if made of the same materials.) It will also be stiffer. A S shaped arm, in theory, will have better lateral balance. In other words, the cartridges natural tendency to tip over with a pivoted arm is reduced with a S shaped arm. It's unclear if this can make an audible difference or not. Both types of arms can have superb performance. I happen to like the looks of an S or J shaped arm best, but this has nothing to do with how well it will perform. Anyone have any links to where S vs Straight is discussed in an informative way? Dave
