Subject: Re: Help needed with a turntable purchase
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 29 Nov 2005 21:57:47 GMT
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My opinion. If you listen for pleasure and not for perfection; want a good sounding, reliable turntable that can be somewhat upgraded in the future should the notion take you and works well with many of the better cartridges then I would suggest getting a Technics SL 1200 with a decent cartridge priced in the 100-150$ range. The table is about 350$ discounted and another 150$ for a cartridge is a good deal for 500$.Pushing the 750$ limit would give you a Denon DL 103r cartridge and a step-up transformer which should put you squarely into audiophile territory.The Technics is a Direct Drive with a decent arm that can be upgraded.The difference you might or might not hear in a comparatively priced belt-drive would be a quieter background and a little smoother presentation depending upon which cartridge you choose and whether you can hear that difference at all with your existing electronics.If you have very revealing electronics then the 500$ belt-drive may extract a little more music from the grooves and have a slightly more musical sound. But the difference between a belt and the Technics at this price range is really more of a trade-off in percieved sound than a real improvement.Spending on the cartridge or maybe a decent cart and a better phono stage should be more of an improvement than going for the belt.If you like the idea of the belt; than for 500$ new; there are Rega's and Thorens that sound nice with decent arms. Will they improve upon the DD Technics? I don't hear it but some may say they do.Designing the whole set-up properly should provide a better return on your audio dollar. Placing the Technics on a wall shelf bolted to the wall; adjusting the arm and cartridge very carefully and choosing a good medium or high mass cartridge to begin with will do most of what the music is capable of doing. Then concenterate on a good accurately tuned phono stage and you will be very surprised at how good it all sounds.Let us know how you make out or if you have any other questions.