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Subject: Too much DIY?

Posted by [Jolene](#) on Fri, 10 Jun 2011 17:35:02 GMT

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I've been looking at picking up a turntable. Most of the good ones I have been seeing for sale have been so DIYed, I hardly know if they are still the same turntable. I saw Thorens that looked good but the base and feet were both replaced and then lots of other retrofits.

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Subject: Re: Too much DIY?

Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Sat, 11 Jun 2011 02:04:22 GMT

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There are few mods to turntables that can't be turned back to stock. Mostly they're as you mention, removing or changing the chassis bottom and/or feet and perhaps damping the platter and/or chassis. I wouldn't worry too much about mods; concentrate on condition.

I'd also go out on a limb and say that in the Thorens, Rega, AR range there is little substantive difference in sound. Steve Brown and I did a comparo some years ago between his TD-125 and my Ariston RD 11; the similarities were more striking than the differences. Soon after I heard a P-3 at LSAF and it wasn't all that different in tone and texture, and that was unsuspected.

The big story of our informal comparison was the different sound of the arms: his AT-1005 and my SME 3009-II. Swapping cartridges back and forth, the superiority of the Audio Technica was clear. Now that's what sits on my VPI HW-19 MK IV.

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