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Subject: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 11 Dec 2004 22:02:13 GMT  
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In some of the posts below I referred to some of the old AR "merrill mods" that are being redone by Anthony Scillia. The Arm board he made for me arrived today. I had it made to fit a mint Infinity black widow tone arm I acquired some years ago, and now decided to mount it to my AR turntable. After sending him my tonearm mounting plate and measurements he made a very nice armboard of delrin with my plate mounted right on it. This is an SME type slide mount and I didn't know if it could be done given the small armboard. The arm fit just fine and the arm is finally on the table. I don't know if its the board or the arm, but the combo made my cartridge sound MUCH better. I intend on getting his other AR mods as they become available and post on them later. So far, so good. I have no affiliation with all this, but missed the boat on all these mods back when Merrill audio offered them. I still have my AR table so I'm happy about a second shot. Russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 11 Dec 2004 22:34:33 GMT  
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How do you feel his prices are?

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 11 Dec 2004 23:30:57 GMT  
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Seems fair to me. Armboard was 50.00, and it is a nice big chunk of delrin, with quality machining & fine finish. The other prices are about the same as the original Merrill mods. Plus, my arm was for a SME mount. Opening fit with extremely close tolerances. Price also included all new hardware with locknuts. While the old outdated black widow may have also had a hand in it, I can not believe how much better my cartridge sounds when compared to when it was on the old arm and board. I hope he redoes the subplatter merrill used to make, I had a chance to buy the last one in stock at Merrill back in the day, and passed on it. I have been kicking myself HARD ever since. I have been considering a BIX, but think I'll hang onto this AR for a while. If you ever heard an ES-1 with ALL the merrill mods, you know what I mean. MUCH better than many believe.

Russellc

Russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable

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Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 12 Dec 2004 14:09:19 GMT

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I think that system has great rep. Which cartridge are yo using with the Widow?

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sun, 12 Dec 2004 17:20:48 GMT

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Right now, I have the ortofon OM 30 on there. I went to the Jacks music site, (where the shure V15 whatever the latest version is has been available for 199.99) but their site showed SOLD OUT, with a note that shure was discontinuing that cartridge as well as the stylus! Oh well, I thought that was the direction I was going. For now, I can't get over how much better this cart sounds with this arm/board combo. I like the look of the arm and figured it wouldn't sound any worse than the stock one... turned out to best the old combo by a considerable margin. A nice surprise! The funny thing is, back in the day (circa 1975-6) I can remeber seeing the black widow in my local dealers shop and thinking how exotic it looked, but cost more than my whole analog rig at the time, about 250.00 Now I want to find something nice cart wise, surprisingly this arm seems be able to handle nicer than I anticipated. Over the years I have had people suggest I might be surprised by its performance. I should have done this long ago, but until recently had no board to fit its SME style mount. The same place we were discussing having good prices on rega also has some good prices on the goldring 1042, as well as their high output moving coil "Eorica" or something like that. I just want to make sure that I am making a substantial step up than what I already have. Clear audio has a couple, one about 200 one about 400, maybe I'll look to see if the OC9 is compatible? I believe I'll need a setup transformer for it. The search is on,

Russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 13 Dec 2004 00:20:14 GMT

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Have you checked Advance? They have good Denon Prices for the 301.

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Mon, 13 Dec 2004 23:07:51 GMT

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No, I am not familiar with Advance. I google searched it, but no result, unless you mean Advance\_audio.com, but they are in Japan?Russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 14 Dec 2004 12:31:34 GMT  
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Yes that is the place. They are the only place on the net I can find that sells that line of Denon; the 103/301/601 and the Denon step-up. They also have the Audio Technika ML 150 which I think is the better sounding of the MM carts.

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Tue, 14 Dec 2004 23:02:36 GMT  
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Have you ever ordered anything from them? What was shipping like? russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 15 Dec 2004 22:39:13 GMT  
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Actually no; I have only anecdotal evidence but a friend recieved his DL 103 from them. It took 6 weeks but arrived healthy. I will be ordering a new 103 from them within the next few months. I removed mine from the arm to clean the pin-outs and guess what? Ripped the needle right out of the cart. Fingers like sausages.

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 15 Dec 2004 23:36:26 GMT  
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Thats great to hear, i would be interested, if for no other reason my black widows instuction manual shows a 103 mounted on it. I didn't realize you had a 103. Can you tell mw about its characteristic sound as compared to some of the other carts you have experience with? I assume its weight/mass and compliance are correct for my arm. Unless the photographer just bolted on

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the nearest cart. My arm will use carts with weights from 4 to 8.5 grams. I am looking for a significant step up from my ortofon OM 30. Do you think it would be? Regards,  
Russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2004 12:23:12 GMT  
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Up front remember it tracks at 2.5 grams, some find that unacceptable. The sound; it's a nice warm fat sound, not sparkly but sweet. Is this making any sense? It does have the appearance of reduced surface noise; not weak in the highs but less aggressive. It tracks almost anything; referring back to your original post. I try other carts but eventually come back to the Denon due to the musicality. If you love detail and hyper-resolution, which is fine depending on the music you like; then pass it by would be my recommendation. I like a lot of 50's jazz and old acid rock as well as singer/songwriters. This mix works real well with the 103. I use a Fidelity Research step-up. As far as record wear, I don't care much anymore. I have a lot of albums and if I played one a day it would take years to go through them all and by then I won't hear too good anyway.

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2004 13:08:53 GMT  
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People needlessly freak about tracking weight. record wear is occasioned more from light tracking weights than heavy ones. If the cart was meant to track at 2.5 grams, it will cause no more wear than one designed to track at 1 gram. Sounds like a cart I might enjoy, "big fat" sound. While the hyperdetailed carts can sound good, and enjoyable, rarely does live music sound that way! Same with "imaging" I, like most, enjoy a big expansive stage, but again, rarely is this how live music sounds. I find realism more in the "Pulsing air bubble" concept, where music seems to come from a pulsing area of pressurization, creating a little atmosphere in the process. Probably why I like tubes/horns setups. Hope you understand, I just reread what I typed...not sure if it came out right.  
russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2004 21:29:48 GMT  
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Nice image; the Pulsating Bubble, it does make sense, in a Zen like way. A lot of the higher priced MC's I have heard are either too bright or too expensive. If I could afford a Koetsu or a Van Den

HUII I would not hesitate but the Denon really does music nicely and if you never have heard those others then this would make you happy. For 250\$ what else is there? Audio Cube sells the 601 also but it is over 500\$. So; since you agree with my description then I feel confident in offering a recommendation. Nice to know that you can embark on the upgrade path with confidence ain't it? Something to look forward to. With the AR I mean.

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 18 Dec 2004 22:14:40 GMT  
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Well, I just scored a Shure V15 vmr or what ever from a guy on ebay that had six up for bid, so I guess I'll have one after all. Russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 18 Dec 2004 22:20:21 GMT  
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In a way that's an even better choice. Sounds great tracks anything and no step-up. So what was the final score on that piece? Wonder how he came to have six?

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sun, 19 Dec 2004 01:27:22 GMT  
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I was scanning audio asylum (not participating, "didn't inhale") and I saw a header talking about the cart and how this guy just got it from an ebay seller who had a bunch I guess, so I went to ebay searched, found it. It showed six left. I guess only 5 now. I believe it is "buy it now" @ 214.00 or so. 5 for ship 3 for insur (optional). Jacks used to have them for 199.99, most others seem to be 325.99. They are brand new sealed factory packages. Apparently, some item used in its manufacture is simply no longer available, shure says it will not return this time. I guess if I like it I'll look for an extra stylus to keep around.

Regards, russellc

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Subject: Re: Delrin arm board for AR turntable  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sun, 19 Dec 2004 14:19:03 GMT  
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by the way, the denon 103 can be gotten from audiocubes.com, check to see if back ordered first.  
249 I believe.Russellc

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