

---

Subject: What turntable should i get?

Posted by [Tim](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 04:41:35 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi, im another one of those new people who dont know anything about turntables. I want to get one though. I only wanted to spend under 200, and i want one that sounds good as possible for that price. I liked the idea of getting a second hand one that looked old style, but im guessing the new ones would have better sound quality. any help would be great, like what brands are good and what are bad. thanks.

---

Subject: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt

Posted by [Tim](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 04:44:15 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

nt

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 12:47:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Look on the Turntable Factory website and get one of their re-built Techniques tables.

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 14:23:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Also, check the vinyl nirvana site, they usually feature several AR tables and all he sells has been gone through and rebuilt to full working order, like the turntable factory, but VN only deals with AR.    Regards, Russellc

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 16:10:33 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I was just looking at the site, and they also had thorens, and while their prices are very fair, they are well above your 200 budget, but you can find them unrestored for less, and you can see what they look like. Russellc

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 26 Mar 2005 17:11:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

If you decide to buy used; just avoid any belt drive tables unless you know exactly what you want and how to fix it and maintain it. Should you not choose to learn this and do the work, stay with a Direct Drive.

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sun, 27 Mar 2005 13:48:27 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I'm not a fan of direct drives, but many are, especially the technics 1200 series. If buying unrestored, a belt drive will require some attention. Most of the direct drives that need attention i have seen usually will no longer keep speed, which I, myself will not fool with. Most direct drives are plastic ( I know ,not all, Kenwood made belt and direct drive with the "marble like" top which are sought after.)and mounting an upgrade tonearm is impossible or not worth the problem. Finally, haveing modded a few tables in my day, I simply can not get past having the motor not only not isolated from the platter, but part of it. That said, to just get a table to do the basic work and no more a direct drive may be a good choice, and the turntable factory will be in budget and certainly get the job done. I don't know how they perform but the Denon direct drives alway LOOKED quality but I never owned or used one. There seems to be a LOT of support for the technics 1200 series out there. With audio, I have always found "cry once and buy the best you can" a good rule of thumb. If you're really into it, (audio that is) vinyle is going to hook you big time and you will be looking for more. While I'm sure some will disagree, and my opinion is only that, a direct drive table has built in design problems which can not be overcome in the way a belt drive can. To wit, there are no "high end" turntables that are direct drive that I am aware of, and while you could probably fill a battleship with things I'm not aware of, it is at least a general trend. With an under 200 dollar budget, most of what I've said is irrelevant anyway for the most part. at 200, you have to compromise, either something that needs attention or unrestored, or something inexpensive...see general rule above. welcome to vinyle! There is just something about a turntable, very mechanical and by far my favorite component, that is just satisfying.Regards, Russellc

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 27 Mar 2005 15:39:39 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Please accept this in the spirit it is offered. There is absolutely no doubt or dispute with anything you have said. You obviously have extensive experience at this and more importantly you have a true enthusiast's outlook and appreciation for vinyl and the equipment needed to reproduce it. When I see a question concerning a very simple aspect of TT purchase/repair or advice from someone who is very obviously a newcomer to vinyl I have found it best to be specific and brief. Someone asking for a recommendation in a price range of 200\$ is probably not looking to get deeply involved in theory and mechanical repair. I believe they really just want a simple and basic idea of what they are getting into; what they need to do it and where to look. We grew up around turntables; I still have two of my old AR's sitting downstairs in various states of modification as I know you do also. I really don't see this guy looking to rebuild and modify a 40 yr old table. But if we steer him to a nicely functioning Technics that sounds decent( and they do) and requires no real maintenance and set-up is minimal; we have helped him and maybe encouraged someone to get into vinyl themselves. That is why I try to keep my answers short/sharp and to the point for these types of questions. I have also found that between the Linn and the Technics in my basement, most newcomers don't even hear a MAJOR difference in sound.

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 00:10:23 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Absolutely correct. Nothing more frustrating than trying to enter something like vinyl, and have endless hassels with an unrestored piece. Plus, the turntable factory is an excellent outfit to deal with and are obviously a labour of love type of business. Nothing meant to take from your recommendation which is solid as can be given the posters request and budget constraints. While my first table was a belt drive, it was an inexpensive budget Kenwood. It was only belt drive because I couldn't afford their more expensive tables, which were direct drive...something very much in vogue at the time. My next table, a marantz whose model number I can not remember was also direct drive. It eventually wouldn't keep speed after YEARS of use. This is something that can be fixed, my comment was based on the fact I wouldn't know where to begin with fixing it, but others, like the turntable factory, sure do. Just alternative verbage and planting seeds for future choices and nothing more. Apologies if appearance was otherwise. Best regards, Russellc

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 28 Mar 2005 02:19:07 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Total agreement; keep up with the AR posts if you can. They are informative and to my mind offer

a step-up to those adventurous spirits who have experienced good vinyl and are looking to move up to a very good sounding and enjoyably involving project. To anyone with a yearning to start a project that pound for pound will get you the maximum increase in sound quality available for your audio budget forget every thing else and build a AR modded table with a good arm/cartridge. It will provide more musically satisfying results than any other DIY effort. And Russell has this down well and should he choose to provide a project photo history it will; in my opinion, be a worthy addition to the ART data bank.

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 02:54:29 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Plan to, but being rather old school and hard headed, I have not yet aquired a digital camera! Trying to sort them out now. To get an idea of what I've been doing looks like, go to vinyle nirvana.com, click on the DIY section, anthony S. has a section. Also in their gallery are tables with the various original Merrill as well as Anthony's versions of these mods.(which as near as I can remember are virtually identical.) I never got around to doing these mods when Merrill offered them, and am excited that they are again available. While these mods cost a few bucks, I was at the point of aquiring a new table and had kind of settled on the VPI HW mk III when they quite making it! While looking around I saw these mods becoming available and decided to update my AR table. It cost considerably less than the table arm combos I was considering. Plus, I'll be keeping an old friend around in the main system. It's a viable choice if you already have an AR that you like. I don't know if I would go this direction If I didn't already have a cosmetically and mechanically excellent condition table, there are many good turntable choices at the same price give or take. I have been taking these mods in one at a time, and will discuss them later in more detail once I get the platter to match my inner platter, which is already done. Then, the motor and power supply and I'll be done. Well, i might still shop for an additional arm for moving coils. Russellc

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 29 Mar 2005 17:22:08 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Merrill was pretty big for a while and they were available and fairly common. Here's my take if you are interested. The maxed out Merrill AR was a contender in my book; however it was pricey, If I remmember correctly it ran about 1100\$ back in 1990. The same Linn was 960\$ Now I see the prices are more in line on the Vinyl Nirvana site. The two Merrills I heard; one as I say was maxed and the other was inner and outer platter but no leaded outside record weight. New springs and armboard and sub-chassis; the speed motor controller. That table had a Sumiko PPT arm and sounded very nice, most competitive with all the tables in that range and actually it reminded me a little of the Linn with that kinda smooth and mellow sound, but not slow and ponderous and thick

like Thorens tables.

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 30 Mar 2005 11:22:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

It was in the early 90s when I had a good listen to a full on Merrill modded AR, and was very impressed, was not expecting it either quite a surprise. In the later 90's a friend of mine replaced his AR with a Linn. I purchased his AR. Have listened extensively to his Linn a swell, he had a few of the extras Linn offers, but I can't remember which ones, I'd have to go ask him. I will have, including the original cost of the table, about 1100 in this after I add the power supply and motor. Right now, between 800-900 or so. By the time I'm done, maybe 1100 or so. Dirt cheap compared to what my friend plans on spending for Linns mods. Crikey, you could buy a decent used car! Vinyl people are obsessed to be sure. By the way, I've been looking at Costa Rican destinations again, thinking of renting a house in Tamarindo (spelling?), but not until november.Regards,  
Russellc

---

---

Subject: Re: P.S not dj'ing turntable just normal. nt  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 30 Mar 2005 18:57:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Thats right; I forgot about that. We are looking in July now. What is the real estate market doing now; have you looked at all?

---