Subject: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Mr Vinyl on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 13:49:04 GMT
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Hi,I own both of these cartridges and have had a lot of time to compare both of them in my system. My turntable is an Oracle MK4 with Turbo power supply and a Graham 2.2 tonearm. First a little background, I have recently purchased a Clearaudio Matrix record cleaning machine and have started buying used records from a local thrift shop. I purchased the Shure because I wanted an inexpensive cartridge that I could use to play these records without fear of wrecking my beloved 7000FE5. And I had also read and heard all of the talk about this cartridge for years and frankly was curious to hear it. I have a couple of extra arm wands for the Graham tonearm so switching back and forth between the two is "relatively" easy. I also must add that in order to make switching the arm wands faster I added a piece of lead in-between the Shure and the headshell of the Graham. I meticulously trimmed the piece of lead so that I could switch arm wands with out adjusting VTF. I don't know if this added piece of lead is helping the sound of the Shure or not. I suspect it is. Anyway first thing I noticed when playing the Shure was a slight increase in bass and this got me interested in making direct comparisons between the two cartridges. So here is the long and short of my comparisons on my system. The Audioquest has more high end and more high end detail. This is the one area that the Audioquest really outshines the Shure. After that the cartridges become very close in sound. I was amazed at how close a $300 cartridge could come to a $2,000 cartridge. The Shure is smoother and more enjoyable on many records. The Audioquest can sound great on some records and when it does the Shure can't touch it. But on other lp's where the sound with the Audioquest is a bit much the Shure smoothes things over and makes the music more enjoyable. I also think the Audioquest has a little better imaging. The Shure can be a little blurred in comparison. However I could happily live with the Shure in my system as the main cartridge. I have not found the Shure to be overly warm as some suggest. I find it less strident on some recordings. Overall the Shure is a really nice sounding cartridge and well worth the praise it gets. It really is a giant killer. It will make me think twice about purchasing a really expensive cartridge in the future. Just for clarification though. I am not saying the Shure is better sounding than my 7000FE5. What I am saying is that the Shure comes a lot closer to the sound of the FE5 than one would imagine given the huge price difference. Whether or not the difference in price is worth the difference in sound is a subjective matter. Some would say yes and others would say no.If you are looking for a "relatively" inexpensive cartridge and want a taste of what some of the megabuck cartridges can do, I would recommend the Shure V15MR. It's a bargain. P.S. I have recently changed all of the cables in my system to the new MIT Shotgun S1 cables. This change has made the difference between the two cartridges even greater. However all of the above is still accurate for my system, it's just not as close a race.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 14:18:55 GMT
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Thanks for your input. Any idea how the Rega Elys and Super Elys compare? I have a Rega

table, tone arm and cartridge and I'm trying to get a handle on how the Shure compares. They're in the same price range.

Subject: Sorry Wayne I have no experience with either. (NT)
Posted by Mr Vinyl on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 15:22:30 GMT
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NT

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 16:45:12 GMT
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The Super-Elys is a nice warm big sound with good extremes and very punchy bass. It works particullarly well with the Rega arm and in fact if I were choosing between the Shure and The Super Elys for that arm/table combo I would pick the Rega over the Shure. It is less compliant and better suited for the Rega arm. My opinion.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Jul 2005 16:49:19 GMT
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Thanks, I'll take your word. I've been toying with the idea of doing something turntable-ish for a year now, but I've always got my plate full. A buddy of mine got a VPI and it made my mouth water for something new. And really, all my phono stages are integrated in preamps or unfinished kits so I need to do something there first.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 15 Jul 2005 00:09:43 GMT
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Listen; it took me an afternoon to assemble my Seduction. Call in sick. That unit BTW is the best of all the Bottlehead kits. It is a steal at the price.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 15 Jul 2005 07:16:43 GMT
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That's good news. I'll take your suggestion and make time to build mine one day then. I've had it, new and in the box since for two years now. That, after a nine month wait for the kit to arrive. So I'm due.But I can't stand the looks of the thing. When sitting next to my Stoetkit or Audio Note amps, the stock Bottlehead kits look like warts. I'll have a nice chassis made and powder coated to make it look sexy enough to match its name.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 15 Jul 2005 14:29:10 GMT
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You're doomed. Like the old saying goes, an ugly kit that gets built sounds better than the most beautifull kit that doesn't. Besides; I don't mind the looks of the seduction; if you use a good oil finish and a baked on color for the top plate they look pretty good to me. Or put it in furniture with a little fan exhaust.To be honest; I prefer not seeing this stuff at all, ever. One day it all goes in a hidden spot. That goes for every piece of audio equipment ever made. Nothing ruins the looks of good furniture like some amp sitting on it.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 15 Jul 2005 16:32:51 GMT
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That's the way Geddes sees it too. He doesn't give a hoot how it looks, says if he wants art he'll buy art. Not me, half the beauty of a good tube amp is aesthetics, it's like sculpture in light with sound.

Subject: Re: OK, Here are my comments on the Shure compared to my Audioquest...
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 15 Jul 2005 18:01:33 GMT
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Form follows function. I like the looks of the Fisher recievers.