Subject: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Mon, 01 Aug 2005 22:09:59 GMT
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I recently aquired a Dual CS508 and thought i would give analog a try. This is my first table, though i am familiar with the sound that a "good table can prodce. To be honest this thing sounds horrible, it has no life whatsoever.. Before i go spending money on a ortofon super10 to replace the original cartridge, is this thing worth putting time and effort into? There are also a few mechanical problems that i can fix as well, such as the arm lift not working due to a missing c clip. As far as setting the arm, i set the weight to allow the arm to float and set the side dial to the desired tracking force of 1, which was too heavy. I also noticed that the side dial wont go much beyond 1 although it is labled beyond 2. Any thoughts?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 01 Aug 2005 22:18:17 GMT
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What makes you think the cartridge is the problem?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Mon, 01 Aug 2005 22:25:29 GMT
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Well, perhaps it is not.. But the stylus was pretty dirty so i cleaned it as well as it would clean with stylus cleaner. Fact is that i can replace the original cartridge with a super10 cheaper than i can replace the stylus. I was just wondering if this table is worth the effort.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 00:50:06 GMT
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Hows the main bearing?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible

Posted by Jsmith on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 03:56:33 GMT
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I removed the belt and gave the platter a turn. Spins like a charm. Very smooth.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 08:24:28 GMT
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You have to use a stethoscope and place the bell end right on the sub-chassis to see if the bearing is making noise when you spin it.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 16:17:17 GMT
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Good thing I know a few nurses I have worked out alot of the bugs with this thing.. I dont think the previous owner knew a thing about turntable setup as the tracking was setup all wrong. And thats bad coming from a table amature like myself. I am working solely from information i find online, so forgive my lack of experience. There seems to be a problem with the RCA plugs, I have a few laying around from my last amp build and will change those. Let me be a little more specific as to the sound I am experiencing... The highs seem too bright and the mids are all wrong. Bass is there and relitivly balanced but somewhat muffled and without life. It basically sounds like i downgraded to an extremly cheap pair of speakers. The imaging is awful, sounds almost like dual mono at best. Ill get back with what i find with the stethoscope, this unit doesn't have a floating chassis but i can get to the bearing assembly cover relitivly easy if i were to suspend it on something.. Thanks for reading my posts.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 17:10:04 GMT
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What you describe does not soundlike a bad bearing. It sounds like a poor quality contact between the cartridge pins and the leads. If you can clean and gently dis-connect and gently re-connect the leads to the cartridge pins I think you may find some improvement.Or the cart is just bad and worn out. Try the leads and also while your at it if you can replace the RCA jacks or clean them too. Which phono stage do you use?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 18:15:22 GMT
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Good call... I have used this table with two different stages; a harman kardon 3480 and a 12ax7 based preamp on loan from a friend. The glass preamp yields slightly better results but is still suffering from the same thing as the hk. I do know that this is the original cart that shipped on this thing in 81. I was leaning toward ortofon carts because thats the style this ULM arm was designed for. Any recomendations?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 18:20:13 GMT
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Yes the cartridge must be replaced. I like the Ortofons; which one do you have in mind; the 540 is a favorite but a little pricey. The OM 10 is a nice sound also and less expensive.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 18:31:16 GMT
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I found a great deal on a super10, I like that cart because you can upgrade to the 30 by replacing the stylus. The only thing that makes me a little uneasy about changing this cart is the way the dual headshells are made. Im not too sure how to set overhang and such. The only thing i have to aid in chainging the cart is a paper protractor. I need to get my hands on a service manual because there is a problem with the lift mech that I can't put my finger on by visual inspection, and that would probably make changing the cart a little easier as well. I appreciate your help on this.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 19:57:01 GMT
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Did you try Analogdept.com? They have many service manuals. Is this table automatic or manual lift?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Russellc on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 22:09:09 GMT
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Yes you can upgrade the om 10 to om 30 by changing the stylus, but its better just to buy the one you want. check the price of the OM 30 stylus. You can get the OM 30 complete for about the same if you shop carefully on line. I found that the price of the OM 30 was up quite a bit, around 285 on a lot of sites, a large increase from the 159.00 that I found it for. I was still finding them at 185 recently, I believe it was music direct. I don't know if it is the case here, but many manufacturers "cull" the bodies for the more expensive models. Since your just starting out, go with the om 10 and get the table working.I do not quite follow about the counterweight not going to 2 or whatever...is it the correct one? Invest 20.00 and get a shure scale. If this solves the problem and you want to go further, you have a working unit with new cart. that you can sell for upgrade $$.Regards, Russellc

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Russellc on Tue, 02 Aug 2005 22:14:17 GMT
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Jack's still has them for 159.00! (Super OM 30)Russellc

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Wed, 03 Aug 2005 00:34:23 GMT
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i am going to answer 2 questions in this post.. The dial not turning was due to the previous owner over rotating the dial, so after turning it backward all was good. There are no numbers on the weight, they are on the side of the arm.. As for the cartridges, I think I will opt for the super10 just for the price of 49.99. This turntable has auto return I think, but I am not sure. What I do know is that when you push the lift up or down buttons, nothing happens. The arm that controls this seems to be in tact and is well lubed. But without a diagram i can't tell if anything is out of place or missing, although everything looks okay.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 03 Aug 2005 01:26:52 GMT
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I think you will need to look at a schematic or remove the lower plate that covers the interior and look at the mechanism. If it is a gear to gear arm lift then it should be easy to spot. If a electronic lift then you will have to study it. If gear to gear then some kind of pressure band must be used. That may be worn. It would look like a rubber band but small that puts pressure on one gear to mate with the other when the button is pushed. Or a swingarm might be used. You must find a schematic.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Wed, 03 Aug 2005 01:40:05 GMT
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I have inspected the mechanism very closely.. All parts seem to be in place. The lift controls are in the form of buttons on the front of the unit. All looks to be in place except for where the button mechanism mates to the arm that should be controlling the lift pin, there is a junction consisting of two gear like swivels that are spring loaded. From looking at it, it seems that one has shifted to the side. I have found the manual in paper form, but am trying to find one available for download. Manualgenus has almost every manual except for the cs508, even the next model up which is fully auto. Looks as though downloading isnt going to be an option so i will have to wait... I am going to go ahead and get the manual and get this thing running.. Ill post the results of this when I get it completed. Thanks for all of the input, it's been quite helpful.

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by hurdy_gurdyman on Wed, 03 Aug 2005 12:48:36 GMT
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Thought I'd jump in here and add my 1 1/2 cents worth. I've owned a bunch of Dual tables (not this model, though.) Most of them don't have particularly accurate calibrations on the tonearm adjustments. Getting a separate stylus gauge like the Shure is a very good idea. If you don't have a record with a blank section to test for anti-skate accuracy, set the scale for anti-skate at about 1/2 of the recommended value. Better too little than too much.Dave

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Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by A-Ronka-Ronk on Tue, 15 Nov 2005 21:11:40 GMT
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That sort of woe sounds simply like a record player going into a 'regular' rather than an RIAA input on the preamp, doesn't it?

Subject: Re: Dual CS508 Sounds terrible
Posted by Jsmith on Wed, 16 Nov 2005 01:47:07 GMT
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no no no my friend, i am a little more savvy than that.. changed rca's, oil and cartridge and the table now sounds decent... i think it was the cartridge causing it..