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Subject: Grados,ortophons,shures and AR turntable hum

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 17:01:44 GMT

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Hello.As many of you know, I use a modified AR "the turntable". Previous to modification, I used the ortophon super OM 20. I upgraded to the OM 30. with both of these cartridges, there was some hum that I could usually get down to an acceptable level. After changing to a Shure V15Vxmr, I was able to almost completely eliminate hum on the phono, even with Altec A7 speakers. Having used the shure for a while, I decided to re-mount the OM 30 for a comparison. Long story short, it hums badly. I have long heard the AR wisdom to avoid grados because of hum, but have never had this problem leveled at ortophon. Anyone else have hum with ortophon? The only change I have made with the shure that was not in place with the ortophon would be changing the original inner platter and original outer platters (both aluminum) for an inner platter of delrin, and an acrylic outer platter. Perhaps these lent some modicum of shielding that was sufficient to prevent the Ortophon from humming. I certainly don't remember this level of hum before. This is with the normal ground wire connected with the shure, also connected with the Ortophon, as well as another ground wire that is on the table, that reduces the level somewhat.Any thoughts on humming AR/ortophon stories out there?Thanks, Russellc

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Subject: Re: Grados,ortophons,shures and AR turntable hum

Posted by [Dominic](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 18:45:22 GMT

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Maybe the hum comes from your pre-amp?

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Subject: Re: Grados,ortophons,shures and AR turntable hum

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 22:15:23 GMT

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Say Russell; do you have both ground wires connected? and if so how does it do if you remove one of them? Have you tried swapping the positive leads on the cartridge pins? And hum is usually simple in Turntables; so are all the wires tight and have continuity? I have had that happen before, loose wire.

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Subject: Re: Grados,ortophons,shures and AR turntable hum

Posted by [Chris Denyer](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 11:01:20 GMT

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Thats what I think it may be. I had a similar problem once with hum, but I seperated the phono pre from the tube pre amp I use, and hey presto-no hum.

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Subject: Re: Grados,ortophons,shures and AR turntable hum  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 17:22:56 GMT  
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Yes, with the ortophon it was quieter with both wires connected. The shure is just as quiet either way. Removing either wire increases the hum.Russellc

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Subject: Re: Grados,ortophons,shures and AR turntable hum  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 17:28:12 GMT  
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I use two tube preamps, either one the ortophon hums, the shure doesnt. My counterpoint is a little quieter than the Audio by Van Alstine super pas III, but just a litte. They are both amazingly quiet with the shure, even with Altec A7 (well over 100db efficient).The only real change is the platters. The Ortophon hummed a little before, but was only noticeable with no music playing. Again, this is with very efficient speakers that are vewry revealling of hum.Russellc

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