Subject: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Concorde on Fri, 20 Nov 2020 00:15:17 GMT
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If you buy a used turntable and want to oil the bearings "just in case", is automotive oil suitable? I'm thinking 0 or 5 weight. Nothing too heavy.

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Rusty on Fri, 20 Nov 2020 13:43:57 GMT
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No don't use motor oil. That's made for a totally different harsh environment. Use a lightweight oil like 3in1 oil, or do a simple search for turntable oil. It's amusing the amount of conjecture that arises on forums concerning this subject. On and on they go with this, that and the other. For something revolving around at the breakneck speed of 33 1/3 rpm per minute. Some may think they can hear the difference between various oils. Right?

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Silver on Sun, 22 Nov 2020 16:25:40 GMT
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Some people have been known to use the same oil that is used in sewing machines. They probably did this just because it was there in the house anyway, saw "3 in 1" and figured it would do.

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 23 Nov 2020 02:53:01 GMT
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Hi, The best thing to do is check out a sister site of sorts (vinylengine.com) and sign up so you can look at the manuals for various turntables. Some require specialized lubes. The wrong kind can be worse than none at all. What turntable do you have?

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Concorde on Wed, 25 Nov 2020 17:01:19 GMT
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I'm looking at a Technics 1210 right now. Used. The seller looks legit and this, as I'm sure you know, is well regarded.

3 in 1 should do what I pay it do from what I've heard.

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Rusty on Wed, 25 Nov 2020 17:25:19 GMT
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Quote:Concorde
I'm looking at a Technics 1210 right now. Used. The seller looks legit and this, as I'm sure you know, is well regarded.

3 in 1 should do what I pay it do from what I've heard.
They are great tables. I've used an MK5 for many years now. Never a lick of trouble with it. Very easy to use and set up. And, never ever any speed variation that use to plague me with another turntable brand. You might want to check out KAB for your oil. They have the factory equivalent type of oil for all the 1200 series. It's a small vial, but it would last your natural with the small amount needed to keep it lubed.
https://www.kabusa.com/m1200.htm#oil
Also, KAB has some nice add on upgrades for the 1200's. The one I find the best investment in is the tonearm damper.
https://www.kabusa.com/m1200.htm#td1200
Good luck, hope you get lucky getting it.

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Madison on Sat, 28 Nov 2020 03:26:24 GMT
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How often do you guys actually do it though? I never have. I just never think to do it. I know you're not supposed to use WD-40 though.

Subject: Re: Oiling Turntable Bearings
Posted by Cole on Wed, 18 Feb 2026 05:34:15 GMT
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I won't advise anyone to make use of a synthetic motor oil for cleaning the turntables because this oil contains detergents and some multi-grade properties that have the ability to attract moisture over a period and it can affect some delicate parts of the turntable.

I have been making use of liquid bearing 100% synthetic oil for a long time and it has done the work perfectly fine. Other alternatives are Project Lube it or sewing machine oil.

If you can find them in local shops around you, I would suggest checking out https://LPGear.com or TurntableLab.com for the oil that you need. https://LPGear.com was where I got the last one that I am still using to date.