Subject: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by smartt on Tue, 31 Aug 2021 19:09:46 GMT
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They all matter. But pick one. Turntable, tonearm, cartridge, phono preamp.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by gofar99 on Wed, 01 Sep 2021 02:46:53 GMT
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Hi I consider the turntable, arm and cartridge as a single component and thus not individual parts. You would not ask the same question of a car...engine, tires or steering would you? The three must work together. A premium turntable would not provide great sound with a $10 cartridge. Neither would the reverse do justice to the LP.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 01 Sep 2021 13:12:43 GMT
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So true.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Rusty on Wed, 01 Sep 2021 14:32:07 GMT
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For me the turntable staying out of the music is my requirement. Accurate speed control and freedom from stylus drag affecting the music during solo piano or a complex passage. And feedback getting back into the turntable to the tonearm. A decent cartridge can suffice as can the preamp for me. But when you can hear some speed fluctuation and distortion from feedback. That ruins the musical integrity. It's all make believe, listening to recorded music. Having the playback equipment getting added to the music kills it.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Kingfish on Wed, 06 Oct 2021 02:47:19 GMT
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The record.

You can have the best of everything else, but they all come down to the record itself.

As far as the mechanics of it all, I would vote for the turntable.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by LCallan on Fri, 15 Oct 2021 21:02:59 GMT
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I'm with Kingfish. It's all about the record. You can have a magnificent turntable with all the bells and whistles, but a scratched up record, or poorly created vinyl will still sound horrid. Throw a nice record on a cheapie and you're better off.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 15 Oct 2021 21:32:16 GMT
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Yeah, I agree there too. Source material is at least as important as anything else.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Silver on Sun, 20 Feb 2022 13:45:10 GMT
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when I'm bored, the appearance and cleanliness are top priorities. lol

1) Record

2) Needle

3) Tonearm

4 Speaker quality

In that order of course.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 20 Feb 2022 22:48:51 GMT
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Hi A follow on from my earlier post....your ears. They are the final judge on what is important.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Concorde on Mon, 21 Feb 2022 23:08:53 GMT
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Now I feel like it was a trick question all along.:lol: The most obvious answers escape us sometimes.

But no, I see questions like this as a way to make sure you remember your priorities when it comes to maintaining your system.

"What IS more important"?

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by The Noise on Wed, 09 Mar 2022 04:52:40 GMT
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My vote goes for the turntable itself. Just the roundtable portion of it all. That's all. If that goes bad, the wallet gets sad and the needle can't sing.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Rusty on Wed, 09 Mar 2022 16:46:35 GMT
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Of course the source material is important and how well it was put together. But if a record is compromised from misuse, or a bad pressing. You can usually find a replacement that is acceptable. Unless a rare item. But for the most part replaceable. Any part of the equipment chain though that calls attention to itself and not the music it's suppose to transform into what we hear is not doing it's job proper. Of the turntables I've had only one has managed to meet that requirement. The Technics 1200.
Years ago I had a cheap belt drive Technics turntable. Plastic plinth an all. But it had a speed adjustment servo and strobe. I got to the point that I could tell when the speed was drifting before I looked at the strobe and correct it. From then on I became more attuned to speed drift affecting playback. Years later I found a used Rega table locally for a good price. I thought I was movin on up in quality. Some aspects were higher quality, but the overwhelming damnation of the thing was I couldn't adjust it's speed drift. It also had a preponderance to feedback being added through the tonearm. An investment in the 1200 solved all that and more being so easily set up and able to mount different carts easily with minimal adjustments. The main thing being though was it disappeared basically from music playing.
There's of course other turntables capable of the same. And for me what's important spinning them platters.

Subject: Re: What is the most important part of record playing?
Posted by Cole on Tue, 10 Feb 2026 08:18:45 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Sun, 20 February 2022 16:48Hi a follow-up on my earlier post....your ears.
They are the final judge on what is important.
I would still say that all of them are important as long as I get a better quality at the end. I won't want to have some irregular sound quality when I am playing a song, for example.