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Subject: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [positron](#) on Fri, 21 Oct 2022 03:06:41 GMT

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I am trying to setup my turntable.

I have an STD 305M and an SME series 3 tonearm.

Attached is a photo of an STD M with an SME series 3 arm, both just like mine.

I have two protractors, one an SME and the other is a "cart align", and each is so far off that mounting the arm base would require me to glue the arm base rather than the normal mounting.

Need help in finding the correct protractor to mount the arm.

Thanks for time and help.

pos

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#### File Attachments

1) [STD 2022-10-20 ve\\_std\\_305m pdf.png](#), downloaded 229 times

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 21 Oct 2022 12:25:48 GMT

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That's a pretty turntable. Here's a SME instruction book pdf file if that's any help.

[https://sme.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SERIES\\_III\\_PRECISION\\_PICK-UP\\_ARM\\_INSTRUCTION\\_BOOK.pdf](https://sme.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SERIES_III_PRECISION_PICK-UP_ARM_INSTRUCTION_BOOK.pdf)

You might try the Vinyl Engine if you're not already a member to get some advice and help.

<https://www.vinylengine.com/>

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [positron](#) on Fri, 21 Oct 2022 17:29:21 GMT

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Rusty, Thank You for the manual link. Much appreciated.

Attached are photos of the SME Protractor I purchased, Top view of base, and bottom view of base.

What I found was that the sme arm base is maximum forward, the gears also have the arm as forward as possible and the cartridge looks perpendicular

to the LP. Maybe 1 or 2 degrees off.

More thoughts appreciated. pos

#### File Attachments

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- 1) [STD, SME Protractor.jpg](#), downloaded 77 times
  - 2) [STD, SME Top Base.jpg](#), downloaded 81 times
  - 3) [STD, SMEUndercarriage.jpg](#), downloaded 68 times
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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 21 Oct 2022 18:48:04 GMT

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Do you belong as a member to The Vinyl Engine? If not, join up. They have manuals for your turntable and many types of cartridge alignment protractors. And knowledgeable people there to ask questions. Excluding me. But I get by.

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 22 Oct 2022 02:29:56 GMT

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+1 on vinylengine. Great folks and lots of help. There are several "printable" protractors in the reference section. Generally the only thing you need to know is the effective length of the arm. Many are 222 or 235 millimeters. A few are shorter or longer though. The length is given in the specs for the arm. Probably someone either here or on VE will know immediately what it is for your arm. Mine are all 235.

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [positron](#) on Sun, 23 Oct 2022 05:41:28 GMT

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Thank you gentlemen. It is certainly appreciated. Will do.

Cheers

pos

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [positron](#) on Sun, 30 Oct 2022 14:04:37 GMT

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I found an upgrade to my STD 305M table and SME III arm setup. I have

also been learning some things.

While my SME has two holes between the cartridge mounting holes, there is also a modified one hole head shell that SME offered. There is a difference from my understanding, yet SME offers only one protractor.

I just found out that the Stevenson protractor with 2 null points at 60mm and 117mm, from Vinyl Engine, out performed the SME protractor with a single null point. Either it is just too difficult to set the arm properly with a single null point, or the SME is different than the Stevenson model.

Hope this helps others.

pos

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 30 Oct 2022 15:27:36 GMT  
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I think the 2 point protractor system is common with all the Vinyl Engine protractors. Less distortion. Glad you resolved your dilemma. Time to listen to fine music now.

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Subject: Re: STD 305M with SME Series 3 Arm, Which Protractor  
Posted by [positron](#) on Mon, 31 Oct 2022 02:55:21 GMT  
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Rusty wrote on Sun, 30 October 2022 10:27I think the 2 point protractor system is common with all the Vinyl Engine protractors. Less distortion. Glad you resolved your dilemma. Time to listen to fine music now.

Thanks Rusty. I ended up moving the SMEIII arm back some when using the Stevenson protractor, less distortion was clearly noticed. It also looks closer to others setups I have seen.

Thanks for your help, and others. Much appreciated.

pos

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