Subject: Ya can't fly on one wing, right?
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sun, 27 Jan 2008 00:13:16 GMT
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My VPI came with a Grado Platinum which I sold to lower the acquisition cost. I didn't really need the money but the cart wasn't that great sounding and left me with a cost that trumps nearly any good deal I've ever made.So now I have just the Benz Ace and I'm thinking the Platinum' mid-range was aweful nice, SB's Sonata had that plus better treble; maybe I should get a Sonata or even the next one up. Grado has a great trade-up policy with full credit, at least thru' Acoustic Sounds.Friday I'm all set to pull the trigger on the $800 (-10%) low output (who can remember all those names?) when, on Audiogon, up pops a new-in-the-box CA Virtuoso Wood for less than 1/2 price, $365. I really liked my Aurum Beta S until I broke it, Reina made it a Class "B" and several VA-ers agreed. I bought it.In a few days I'll have 2 carts again, one low output coil, the Ace and the highish output moving magnet Virtuoso. I think my low mass SME III is going to like the low mass, 6 grams, cart and its high, 15cu, compliance. We'll see.

Subject: Re: Clearaudio Virtuoso Wood arrived
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sat, 02 Feb 2008 20:50:05 GMT
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That all-important first impression: the Wood has less clarity and bass weight than the moving coil Ace but a silkier mid-range and easier highs.Lots of break-in to go and usually bass fills in no matter the component. If the clarity gets better it's a replacement, if not, an alternative.

Subject: Re: Clearaudio Virtuoso Wood arrived
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 03 Feb 2008 17:01:49 GMT
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Crossing my finger on that one. The price is surely right. Thanks, Bill, for your impressions of that cartridge.