Subject: After almost 40 years, I'm going to try another Audio Technica
Posted by Bill Epstein on Sun, 27 Jul 2008 04:15:21 GMT
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Been hearing good things about the newer AT 440 MLA and that it likes lower mass arms like my SME III. LP Gear has it for $90. It should be here in a few days, let you know.

Subject: Re: After almost 40 years, I'm going to try another Audio Technica
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 28 Jul 2008 16:34:01 GMT
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Please do, I'm interested. I still have an Audio Technica AT20SL that I've always liked a lot. I listen to a Rega Super Elys most of the time now, and rarely swap the Audio Technica in place. But I do like it.

Subject: Re: After almost 40 years, I'm going to try another Audio Technica
Posted by Bill Epstein on Mon, 04 Aug 2008 09:06:47 GMT
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Whilst waiting for the glue to dry yesterday, I spun a few albums with the 440MLA. It may be true that 40 hours minimum is needed for suspension break-in but the general character won't change, IMHO.Listening to Eva Cassiday, Songbird, I noted that her upper register was sweet and clear, her almost screaming crescendos a little less raucous. There was something about the sound, whether I used the Classe amp, or, later, the 45, that put me in mind of listening to records way back when clear and loud were my only benchmarks.That led me to play CS&N first album, immediately followed by the second; just the thing for a hot Sunday afternoon in a cottage in the woods. The first time I heard the former was when a friend brought it back from Chicago along with the very first Sansui transistor receiver for himself and a pair of Fisher XP-? (8" 2-ways, 100 bucks) speakers for me. That particular afternoon is a technicolor memory and took place in the ca. 1900 farmhouse my new bride and I rented my senior year. The 440 really took me back; the sound evocative of the way we listened to just the music in those days. I played the first album twice, once with the 70 watt solid state and again with the 45. In both cases, the close harmonies were a tad confused and the imaging blurry. There was good delineation of the electric bass but the lowest notes were lost in the way people tend to swallow the last few digits of a phone number as they recite it to you. There was definitely some SET Magic with the 45, some of that sharing the room with the performers, but overall, the AT-440MLA is an 'exciting' sounding cartridge with a 'presence bump'; not particularly high-end-giant-killing but fun to listen to and miles ahead of the dreadful Grado Black.Perhaps another 37 albums will cure some of these ills but I can't imagine it replacing the low output Grado Sonata or the Benz Ace.BTW, I finally remembered that the armwand of the SME III is removable. Boy, does that make changing carts a breeze and did I ever

feel foolish for previously removing the entire armboard and tonearm for previous swaps!

Subject: Re: After almost 40 years, I'm going to try another Audio Technica
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 04 Aug 2008 17:00:49 GMT
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Good memories on the Crosby, Stills and Nash albums. Kind of reminds me of the first Moody Blues albums I had.

Subject: Re: After almost 40 years, I'm going to try another Audio Technica
Posted by SteveBrown on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 15:18:36 GMT
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Great review, Bill! Guess I'll spend my $$ on something else.

Subject: Re: Suitable for framing
Posted by Bill Epstein on Mon, 11 Aug 2008 20:01:59 GMT
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Can I get an 8X10?

Subject: Re: oops! That belongs under 'digitally calibrated'
Posted by Bill Epstein on Wed, 13 Aug 2008 01:39:48 GMT
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Subject: Re: oops! That belongs under 'digitally calibrated'
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Aug 2008 23:21:47 GMT
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There's lots of those funny little pictures and cartoons in the images directory here. Feel free to use 'em! If you find some others like that, please let me know and I'll upload them there.
