

Our customer Tim Moser brought his Rega to KNOKKi audio technologies with a worn ZYX R-50 bloom. He wanted a new one. We advised him to have an Audio-Technica AT-OC9 MkIII installed instead. He agreed. Below you will read his findings with the new cartridge. His phono set-up consists of a Rega P8 (i.e., a P7 with P9 platter), Bob's Devices Cinemag step up, Croft Epoch Preamp, Levinson ML29 power amp and Opera Platea loudspeakers

Enjoy!



-----Oorspronkelijk bericht-----

From: Tim Moser

Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 9:37 PM

To: KNOKKi audio technologies

Subject: Re: Full review

Hi Wieger, Hi Alexander,

The intention was to give feedback about how happy I am with your setup and service, but also to explain that any 'improvement' to the system also takes a little adjustment and effort to fully appreciate.

In the meantime I had 2 music nights with friends. These are not hifi people but they like music and can appreciate interesting and involving sound. What a joy to play record after record that pull listeners in, which don't need to be played loud to sound intense. The realism that this cartridge carries is especially appreciated for these moments.

Regards, Tim

-----Oorspronkelijk bericht-----

From: Tim Moser

Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 10:32 PM

To: KNOKKi audio technologies

Subject: Full review

Hi Wieger, Hi Alexander,

After almost a full week with the new cartridge I want to give you the full review. My immediate impressions were based on some not-so-careful social listening with my family and friends. I could hear a lot more detail and clearing away of some messiness from my old cartridge. But something was not right, it highlighted a balance problem in the system or the speaker setup?

More careful listening confirmed that it sounded very sweet, conveying a sense of space that I now guess can only come from these very sensitive MC cartridges. Most of jazz I played had never sounded better from detail and precision, but something was really amiss in the shape and center of the sound. It seemed that something was stealing energy out of some of the range. I kept trying to turn up the volume but louder was just not satisfying.

I fiddled with speaker placement. I measured them from center, moved the couch, toed-in, toed-out, measured again. Getting better....now I can really hear the speakers matching in the middle. Sounds louder at lower volumes. Furthermore through all the ranges where there was fighting I now hear synergy, 1+1=3. I could hear bass, behind, the soundstage spread out and vocals go to dead center. But still the speaker placement was not perfect. Measured again, moved them a bit closer to the ears, then ignored the measurements because in the end an odd-shaped room can only be figured out by ear.

Pure heaven! All that detail delivered with a real sweetness, but muscular bass and midrange. The soundstage is so clear and distributed that I started to notice new elements in records I had listened to 50 or 100 times. Some artists that sound really special:

Amos Lee

Any Rudy van Gelder jazz (mono preferred because it enhances this centering quality which I also think is the result of perfect alignment!)

Ryan Adams

Wilco (my god what detail)

Cornershop (some of those Indian drums must go to 30hz)

probably you know the rest of the style, this cartridge rewards talent and thoughtful production....

Anyway, if you can't tell from what I have written, I am superbly happy. I'm sorry it took a new cartridge to really align the speakers properly, so there is now harmony in the land.

I'm still blown away, thanks again, and see you soon.

Tim

-----Oorspronkelijk bericht-----

From: Tim Moser

Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 8:30 PM

To: KNOKKi audio technologies

Subject: Blown away!

Hi Wieger, please tell Alexander that I am, in fact, blown away. I need to listen to about 30 more records to really process the full capacity, but so far the results are completely joyous. My old cartridge was insulting my ears and I never knew it. Thanks again and see you soon. Tim