

Minitest

There are a variety of record cleaners on the market under £100, **Neville Roberts** tries a few...

Knosti

Disco Antistat Record Cleaning Machine

PRICE: £49.99 CONTACT: 01733 350878
WEBSITE: ANALOGUESEDUCTION.NET

I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH the importance of cleaning your vinyl discs – even brand new ones. I've been using a Knosti Disco Antistat Record Cleaning Machine, available from Analogue Seduction, for several years now and find it works a treat. It is amazing how much dirt you get in the fluid after cleaning just a few records. After cleaning used records, especially those that have been purchased second-hand, it is a good idea to replace the inner sleeve. I use antistatic poly-lined paper sleeves that can also be supplied by Analogue Seduction.

The Disco Antistat machine is supplied with a large bottle of cleaning fluid and includes a funnel and filter paper so that the fluid can be poured back into the bottle and re-used at a later date. To clean any record up to LP size, the LP is clamped in a spindle that also protects the label from the cleaning fluid. The assembly is then inserted between two brushes housed within a bath containing the fluid. The disc is then rotated several times in both directions in the bath, and then removed and placed in the drying rack (which fits neatly underneath the bath when not in use) to dry. The clamp can then be removed ready to clean the next record.

You can look forward to a considerable reduction in surface noise and an improvement in clarity, even with brand new records.

VERDICT THE DISCO ANTISTAT does a very fine job and is excellent value for money.



LAST Factory Record Cleaning System

PRICE: £20 CONTACT: 01234 741152
WEBSITE: BRITISHAUDIO.CO.UK

THE LAST FACTORY was founded in 1979 by scientists who were interested in preserving their own record collections. Since then, the LAST product family has grown to include products that are designed to increase the life of all kinds of acoustical and video media, thereby helping individuals, institutions and the recording and broadcast industries to save and protect their vast libraries of recorded information.

The LAST product range is supplied by British Audio Products Online, who incidentally developed the highly regarded Moth professional record cleaning machines. Its Power Cleaner is specifically designed to remove pressing residues and contaminants left over from the manufacturing process, as well as an All-Purpose Cleaner for everyday use, which is safe to use routinely on vinyl as well as shellac 78s and this is the product reviewed here.

Apply three drops of cleaning fluid to the applicator (two are supplied), taking care to distribute the fluid evenly over the applicator with the bottle nozzle. The record is cleaned by moving the applicator in a sweeping motion twice around the record in the direction of the groove. Finally, remove excess dust from the applicator by rubbing the velvet across the ruffled cap of the cleaner bottle. Background noise while playing the record was considerably quieter than before cleaning.

VERDICT HIGHLY VERSATILE cleaning fluid that not only protects your records, but breathes new life into the sound.

