

Orb

DF-01i Vinyl LP Record Flattener



PICTURE THE SCENE – you spend ages carefully setting up your turntable VTA to within a fraction of a millimetre, and then you place a prized purchase on the platter, only to find it's warped! All those careful adjustments are rendered useless when the warp swoops under your stylus, lifting your cartridge skywards. Quite apart from the reduction in audio quality, even a slightly warped record will result in a localised increase in stylus pressure, causing unnecessary wear that could eventually damage the disc. However, a solution is now available in the form of the Orb DF-01i Vinyl LP Record Flattener.

The DF-01i uses a heating technique that is applied by means

of two semiconductor heater films, one above and one below the LP. By thermally controlling the heating and then the cooling phases, the warped record is allowed to properly relax and return to its original flat state. The machine heats only the outer edge and centre of the record, but not the grooves. The process takes four hours (two to heat up and two to cool down). Most LPs can be treated, except for flexi-discs, Sheffield Lab, BMG Ufa and Super Analogue discs.

Flat's the way I like it

Many of the records I purchase these days are second hand. One such purchase is slightly warped, so I place it in the DF-01i and press the start

button. After about four hours, the LEDs flash to show the process has finished and I remove the record and place it on my turntable. The outcome – a perfectly flat LP! On playing the record, I can confirm that there are no audible changes resulting from the process – except the lack of the faint 'whoosh' I used to hear when the warp passed by – a result! I then borrow a very badly warped LP and this is also rendered perfectly flat by the DF-01i.

The price of the Orb DF-01i may be outside many people's budget, but there is no denying that it works extremely well. It is an ideal investment for people with large collections, as well as for record dealers and the like. **NR**



▶ DETAILS

PRICE
£1,080

CONTACT
01733 350878

WEBSITE
analogueseducation.net

OUR VERDICT

