

INNER

AUDIO



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Hanss Acoustics T-20 turntable

Jun 26, 2012
Kari Nevalainen



Hanss Acoustics is one of the audio companies that have seen it wise to work in every field of Hi-Fi electronics. I wouldn't be worried about this state of affairs if it was their CD player or their amplifier that I'm about to review. But a turntable is a different beast. As a mechanical device it requires quite a special knowledge by the manufacturer, and absolute devotion to the project.

Having said that I must confess that after studying Hanss Acoustics' T-20 turntable more closely, I came to the conclusion that the T-20, just the deck without a tonearm/cart, has every chance to yield major sonic results simply based on its technical characteristics: the aluminium/acrylic sandwiched chassis, the magnetic feet, the heavy aluminium platter, the external motor unit, the external power supply together with the speed adjustment system.

I find this is sort of background info very, very useful and reassuring in that the contribution of the deck to the overall vinyl sound quality is almost impossible to assess independently of the impact of the tonearm and the cartridge. The sound quality is always a function of the three together, and according to my experience qualities such as "image depth", "transparency", "resolution" and "presence of low bass" can be affected to a great extent with a right choice of the tonearm and the cartridge rather than the deck. The technical strengths of the T-20, in reality and on paper, help making predictions about the sound





Jul 21, 2013

radio.string.quartet.vier
- POSTING JOE
celebrating Weather
Report - live

Jul 18, 2013

Koda Takumi K-10 pre-amp

Jul 12, 2013

SoCorpo: Inelement

Jul 8, 2013

Geneva World Radio

Jul 5, 2013

Antonio Soler Keyboard
Sonatas

Jun 24, 2013

Stockholm Highend
Mässä 2013 - Part III

Jun 23, 2013

Pasacalle - Spanish
Folksongs

Jun 18, 2013

Stockholm Highend
Show 2013 - Part II

Jun 14, 2013

Rautavaara: Missa a
cappella

Jun 12, 2013

Stockholm Highend
Show 2013 - Part I

Jun 9, 2013

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Industry

The KEF LS50 Model
Loudspeaker

Aug 18, 2013

Graditech Lumi 3
Speaker Cable

Aug 13, 2013

Tellurium's Brand New
Black Diamond USB
Cable

Aug 6, 2013

Koda Takumi K-10 pre-amp

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Graham Slee Revelation
M & Elevator EXP

May 31, 2013

Three bFly Accessories
- a quick review

May 4, 2013

Audolici A1/25
Integrated Amplifier

Apr 22, 2013

Existence Loudspeakers
Escort and Euphoric

Apr 2, 2013

VTL IT-85

Mar 20, 2013

Manley Jumbo Shrimp -
a quick review

Feb 28, 2013

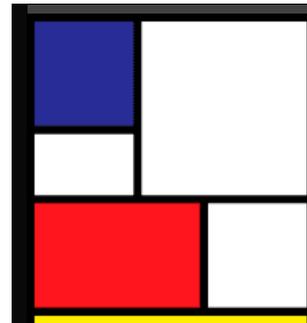
independently of which tonearm/cartridge is selected.



Let's see. The platter is 5.2kg/40mm thick CNC Anodized Alumium. Convincing from every angle, also from below. Thanks to the Magnetic Suspension Low Friction bearing the platter kind of levitates on top of a stainless steel ball, and enables smooth ride for it.

The chassis is CNC precision cut aluminum/acrylic sandwich construction with 4/20/4mm thick layers. That should kill vibrations in the chassis. Further vibration prevention is provided by the three large magnetic levitation feet allowing also for individual levelling of the turntable.

The T-20 chassis offers a choice of two arm platforms: a silicon damped, variable pitch VTA mount platform (range 20-25mm) for eg. Rega tonearms, and a SME mount platform. Both precision CNC cut.



**TelluriumQ Iridium:
20W power amp**

Feb 18, 2013

A Sound Concertina

Jan 26, 2013

**Affordable new 4TUBE
absorbers by Reinhold
Schäffer**

Dec 31, 2012

**Sonus Faber Guarneri
Evolution**

Nov 24, 2012

**AUDIO NOTE UK CDT
Four & DAC4.1X
Balanced**

Nov 16, 2012

EAT Forte S turntable

Oct 22, 2012

**RHA MA450i BLACK
earphones**

Oct 9, 2012

**Convergent Audio
Technology SL-1
Renaissance**

Sep 23, 2012

**Knif Audio hybrid
power amp**

Sep 6, 2012

The platter is driven by an external synchronized European AC motor minimizing vibrations from the motor. Not one but three silicon drive belts go around the platter. With a little training not too difficult to fix.

The outboard power supply has two speed adjusting controls: 33 1/3 rpm and 45 rpm. A speed measuring strobe is built in, and a 9V battery driven digital speed readout on the deck tells the value with three decimals. Fluctuations in the mains voltage don't affect the reading.

The T-20 (560mm x 430mm x 128mm) weighs c. 16kg. The finishing is very good, and if a turntable like this at all pleases one's eye, the design is quite successful too. "That looks nice!", commented my 10 year old daughter who rarely comments the outlooks of the devices, and if she does, not in the positive sense. The deck comes with a light record clamp.



Listening to T-20

The review sample was equipped with Rega RP 303 tonearm and Audio Note IQ3 cartridge. The tonearm was connected directly to Sentec EQ-11 phono preamp, and from there the system as always, mainly with tube amplification this time.

As explained above, I hesitate making conclusive remarks of that part of the sound that is attributable to the T-20 deck alone. About the combination of the three, I can honestly say that it produced quite decent sonic results in all major regards from one LP to another. This systemacy was a truly happy feature of the package. The sound wasn't of course what it would've been with a Denon DL-103 or EMT TDS-15 at the nose of a long massive Ortofon tonearm: more robust but also truer to life. Somehow the sound of the T-20/Rega/AN combo reminded of the one by better Rega turntables, P7 for example. The midrange smoothness, and the depth of the soundstage especially.



As to the variables I associate with the deck itself: the speed stability, the pulse, the rhythm, the punch and the like, I'd say that the T-20 performed really well without empasizing this side of the sound and music. T-20 ain't EMT 930 or other well-served idler-drive turntable but it ain't sluggish or soft in dynamics either.

In conclusion, the Hanss Acoustics T-20 offers, as a matter of fact, a great deal of technical qualities, and in all likelihood, a high overall sound quality with an optimal tonearm/cartridge choice. With the price of 3000 euro the T-20 is not exactly cheap, and will face fierce competition by other turntables in the same category. The T-20 has the disadvantage that it lacks history and recognition. But what helps the position of the T-20 is its higher than on average number of features - and why not its outer appearance too.

www.hanssacoustics.com

www.tur-pex.com



* Type : Rigid Turntable Standalone Motor

* Platter : 40mm CNC Alumium 5.2kg hardcoat Anodized

* Bearing: Magnetic Suspension Low Friction Precision European Ceramic Shaft with Stainless Steel Ball

* Chassis : CNC precision cut aluminum Acrylic sandwich

- * Color : Brush aluminum Silver
- * Thickness: 4/20/4mm
- * Motor : Synchronized European AC Motor,
- * Housing : Aluminum,
- * Speed : 33.3rpm/45rpm GRS system
- * Pulley : Acrylic
- * Belt : 3PC silicon
- * Additional Features : SC-20 Speed Control,
- * VTA : 20-25mm Range
- * Tonearm Base: Suitable for SME Tonearms / Rega / Others Available
- * Total Weight : 16.2 Kgs
- * Dimension : 560mm x 430mm x 128mm
- * Record Clamp, Acrylic Stroboscope, Level Meter



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