

MAINTENANCE RULES

A turntable is a mechanical precision instrument that can only work properly as any machine, if the maintenance is executed correctly. So, what has to be done?

The Belt

The belt tends to dry out over time or gets greasy from finger tips and gets slippery. This means it loses grip and cannot push the platter perfectly anymore, which results in an inexact speed and a higher chance of wow and flutter.

We recommend to replace the belt every year or at least every two years. This does not necessarily have something to do with how often you are using your turntable, because even if you do not play regularly, it can dry out.

Bearing Lubrication

The platter bearing is important for the correct speed and overall lifetime of the turntable.

If the bearing is not lubricated, you might destroy it. The oil can disappear by playing regularly or it gets dirty by rubbing of the metal (turns from grey to black).

You should continually check up if there is oil on the axle. In any case, it is a good idea to renew the lubrication after 3 years at the latest.

We offer LUBE IT for all turntables with a classical bearing where the axle is mounted on the platter or sub-platter and the bushing is in the chassis.

We also offer GREASE IT for all turntables with vertical bearings where the axle is mounted on the chassis and the bushing is in the platter.

High-end Tip:

The bearing gets better and better by just letting the turntable spin. The disadvantage is that you have to grease or lube it more often.

My turntable (*Heinz's private turntable) spins the whole day.

Cartridge

A cartridge also has a certain life span.

The diamond or stylus which is constantly grooving in the record does suffer from some degradation over time as well. The higher the tracking force, the higher the wear out.

The rubber of the cartridge suspension may also dry out, gets hard and becomes less sensitive, which degrades the detail of the playback quite a lot.

Modern cartridges have way better diamonds and rubbers, which greatly increase the cartridges life time.

Correctly installed cartridges used in a good, not too dry or humid environment should easily last for 5000 hours.

In any case, your dealer can help you judge the cartridge or you can check for yourself by using a test record with a tracking test, which gives you a quite accurate sense whether the cartridge is still in good condition.

