



Spin Clean MK II £80

A true original, the Spin Clean takes things back to first principles and is powered by pure elbow grease

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Spin Clean MK II

ORIGIN
USA

TYPE
Manual fluid record cleaner

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
200 x 165 x 58mm

FEATURES
• Cleaning liquid: alcohol free
• Noise level: Negligible

DISTRIBUTOR
Henley Audio Ltd.

The comparatively ancient Spin Clean MK II serves as a kind of entry-level proxy RCM for those on a tight budget that still demand the best from their black stuff. Manufactured and hand-assembled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, since 1975, there's undoubtedly a touch of genius to the thinking behind its design that's hard to naysay. All right, it's unashamedly low rent in operation and the fact that it's constructed from garish yellow plastic isn't ideal, but the colour has been chosen so you can more easily see the contrasting crud it pulls from the grooves. Its basic (and I really do mean basic) design may reach back to the Seventies (the design was basic then too), but its proven longevity speaks to its elbow grease-powered

reliability and effectiveness, no electricity required. I think I can see it poking its tongue out at the Degritter. Quick, easy and fuss-free pretty much defines the deal.

Actually, in principle, it's not so different to the Degritter, able to clean both sides of a record at once. Like the magic toaster from Estonia, your chosen vinyl enters from the top, toaster style, slotting in between two brushes and rollers at the bottom of the cleaning liquid bath.

That's where the operational similarities judder to a standstill, of course. The opposite of automatic, the Spin Clean MK II is small and light and doesn't need to be plugged in. Oh and there's no installation required. Additionally, you never have to adjust the brushes (they're pre-set at the right pressure). Each Spin Clean MK II comes with a 4oz bottle of washer fluid (enough to clean up to 700 records), two washable and re-useable MK II drying cloths, one pair of MK II brushes, one pair of MK II rollers and the owner's manual.

The liquid, incidentally, is proclaimed to be Spin Clean's 'secret weapon', a special formulation that captures the dirt removed from the record and sinks it to the bottom of the washer basin, where it's all too visible against the yellow paintjob, rather than being redeposited in the grooves. The liquid is also alcohol free

and therefore safe to use with old Shellac 78s. That's it, kids. Go clean!

In action

Want to roll your sleeves up and get involved? This is the RCM for you. To make the washing solution, it's necessary to fill the basin until it touches the full line on the inside and then ease the cleaning brushes into their assigned slots and pour about three or four caps full of the cleaning liquid over them. After that, slide the rollers into the appropriate support, which will depend on the size of the record you are cleaning. Now you do the rolling to clean a record, either hand will do.

The user manual recommends three revolutions in each direction to be safe, though that's most likely flexible depending on the state of the vinyl when it went in. The drying process is even more charmingly rudimentary. No balmy breezes or powerfully focused suction to rely on here, but a roughly estimated period of hand-held dripping before placing the record on one of the supplied clean towels and drying with the other.

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The real kicker, though, is how well the Spin Clean MK II works. No, it can't compete with the Degritter – what a result that would be – but it isn't embarrassed by any of the other RCMs in this roundup when it comes to sound quality. Every grimy, unloved record subjected to the yellow peril's stripped-back charms emerges in cheerier form, annoying background hash impressively subdued, music restored to a more brightly lit centre stage. You really can't ask for much more than that ●



Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: A classic, ultra-basic vinyl cleaning solution

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: It's yellow!

BUILD QUALITY



WESAY: The Spin Clean works amazingly well and makes you question the need to spend more

FEATURES



OVERALL

