



# Exit planet dust...

**Martin Pipe re-familiarises himself with a concept whose time has come again, courtesy of the Pro-ject Sweep-IT E.**

**S**econd-hand turntables of a certain vintage commonly have a peculiar column with spindle attached (by glue), on the base=plate - or a mark where one would once have stood. At some point of the turntable's life, this would have been topped by a device like the Cecil Watts "Dust Bug". This was a flat Perspex rod terminated in a brush and velvet pad, the purposes of which were to accumulate dust ahead of the stylus as the record played. Dust Bugs, and products of its ilk, sold well across hi-fi's golden age but disappeared from the shelves of retailers after the majority switched their listening to those silver digital discs.

The basic Dust Bug concept was a sound one, and it was only a matter of time before it was revived to exploit renewed interest in vinyl. One of the latest contenders is Pro-ject's £60 Sweep-IT E. This has the same basic elements of the Dust Bug but, as we've come to expect from

Pro-ject, is more solidly-engineered. The base/pivot is in this case a heavy and substantial cylinder, fitted to a pillar with a soft non-slip felt base. The pivot can be raised or lowered slightly, an Allen bolt securing it at the desired height. The base rests on your turntable, and thanks to its inherent stability doesn't need to be glued to the surface. As a result, it can be moved between turntables and - better still - won't leave a mark.

Then we have the cleaning arm itself. This flat aluminium structure has a dimple that rests on the spindle of the base (a uni-pivot arrangement). The other end is fitted with a fine brush that is, importer Henley Audio tell us, is "made of natural hair". The Sweep-IT E is, thanks to its simplicity, easy to assemble and looks good on any turntable. It's easy to use too - simply lower the brush onto the outer grooves of your record just before you start playing it. The hairs of the brush follow the grooves just as your stylus does, collecting dust as they progress towards the leadout.

Drag is minimal and at no time did use of the Sweep-IT E audibly affect the pitch of any deck I tried.

At the end of the record side, the Sweep-IT E arm is lifted off and placed on a wire rest protruding from the base - just as you would cue up your tonearm and return it to its rest.

It's easy to remove the arm and blow off the matter that has been picked up. I found the Sweep-IT E very effective - if the amount of dust on the hairs was anything to go by. When it was active, I encountered no trouble with stylus tips being clogged with dust - and the consequences for sound quality. Combine with a record-cleaner like Pro-ject's own VC-E, and clean vinyl playback is assured. My only gripe is that the base is tall, even in its lowest position. It can foul, when closed, the lids of some turntables (e.g., Technics and Systemdek) although my LP12's yielded sufficient clearance. Still, it can be removed after use to allow lid closure.

**PRO-JECT  
 SWEEP-IT E £60**



**OUTSTANDING - amongst the best.**

**VALUE - keenly priced.**

**VERDICT**

Bust that dust with this easy-to-assemble and convenient accessory.

**FOR**

- simple but effective  
 - well-made

**AGAINST**

- tall base prevents some turntable lids from closing fully

Henley Audio  
 +44 (0)1235 511166  
 www.henleyaudio.co.uk