

AUDIO-TECHNICA

AT-LP3 Belt-Drive Turntable

Technical Audio Group | tag.com.au | Expect To Pay: \$469

Here's one for those of you who are fans of the listening chair and have your own space set aside at home for simply listening to a favourite record. What you don't need is any of the bells and whistles that a DJ-inspired turntable would normally offer. In fact, you don't really want a direct drive turntable at all, and would be much better suited with a stable belt-driven unit that delivers even and consistent playback. If you want all this without blowing your entire budget on the hardware, then the Audio-Technica AT-LP3 is certainly worth a listen.

What I do like about this unit is that it is not trying to offer you features you don't need. This is a pretty simple turntable, but it does what it is supposed to. The belt-driven platter is stable and offers a good smooth start-up and an even continuous playback. The rubber mat may seem like unfamiliar territory to many DJs, but it creates the perfect surface for a non-slip rotation of your records, whilst keeping them stable beneath the stylus. The controls are fairly sparse with a speed selection, record size selection and a start/stop button. An adaptor is also included for 7" records.



Aside from the platter, the tone arm is the most important device on a turntable to achieve an even and steady playback. The AT-LP3 offers a balanced tone arm with a solid and adjustable counterweight to get the right tension on your stylus. Although the arm itself is straight, the headshell is mounted at an angle to ensure the stylus sits comfortably in the record grooves with the least amount of side pressure from the outer regions right into the centre of the record.

This is not a turntable designed for DJ use; it has been built to deliver clear and concise playback of a record from start to finish. It does just that, and paired with a good preamp and decent amplification system there is no reason why you shouldn't fully enjoy all of your record collection with the aid of the Audio-Technica AT-LP3. It's simple and that is its charm.

BY ROB GEE

HITS

- Simple, sleek design
- Smooth playback
- Clear sound

MISSES

- A little lightweight in build

ADAM

T5V Studio Monitors

Federal Audio | federalaudio.com.au | Expect To Pay: \$759

ADAM studio monitors have been around long enough for most of us to recognise them at a glance. They have certainly made their way with ribbon tweeter designs and shown us all how fast transient attack times can really liven up our monitoring and create a more accurate representation of the mix. But for many, these monitors have sat just out of the price bracket that our home studios have been able to permit for monitoring budgets. With the introduction of the new T Series of monitors, it is great to see that an affordable home studio option is now very much a possibility within the ADAM design range. I was keen to hear just what was on offer from the T5V, which will most likely become the popular favourite for small recording setups where size is an issue, but sound is of great importance.

ADAM have introduced their U-ART Accelerated Ribbon Tweeter in the T Series, which takes a lot of its design from the flagship S Series, but doesn't come with quite the price tag. This is paired up with a redesigned low frequency driver and DSP controlled crossovers to offer a sound catering for the small cabinet to fit in a small space. Backed by a D-Class amplifier that delivers 50 watts to the low frequency driver and 20 watts to the tweeter, these little speakers have the capability of delivering high SPLs, even when they aren't



really needed. So, you know that at a comfortable monitoring level, the amplifier and the drivers are not being pushed to the point of exhaustion, and you're getting optimum performance from them at all times.

With the Accelerated Ribbon Tweeter that ADAM is so well known for, you get a beautiful, crisp high frequency response from these monitors that allows you to really hear what is going on in the mix. These make ideal editing monitors, as the fast transient attacks make start and stop points on even the fastest of sounds easily noticeable. There is no floppy, lacklustre sound here, as it is all delivered with

pristine clarity. The low end is there too, even though you are only dealing with a five inch driver. The rear ported design does offer some restrictions on placement, as it can result in excessive false bottom end when placed too close to a wall, but this can be accounted for in placement and EQ. In short, these are a great studio monitor pair for critical listening in the home studio environment. You really get a sense of what ADAM are trying to offer you in their ribbon tweeter design and can certainly hear more of what is happening in the sound than you will be used to. What's more, they come in at well under the going rate for similar offerings from other speaker manufacturers. You'd be hard pressed to

find a better studio monitor of this design for a similar price. ADAM have certainly delivered on quality for a price point with the T5V studio monitors.

BY ROB GEE

HITS

- Articulate high frequency response
- High SPL from dual D-Class amplifiers
- Smart design for both looks and sound

MISSES

- Rear porting offers some spatial restrictions