

TRANSLATION OF A REVIEW OF THE KENWOOD L- 07D PUBLISHED ON THE ITALIAN HI-FI
MAGAZINE STEREOPLAY IN 1981- THE REVIEWS ARE SIGNED F.GATTA AND ROBERTO
BATTAGLIA

Page 46

31 Kg. of supremacy

With the constant aim of supremacy, the Kenwood technicians bring out timely equipments with top performance: they want to demonstrate they are the best. With this turntable they've achieved the target.

Constantly involved in research, Kenwood engineers put out periodically outstanding equipment with the scope to create an highly technological brand image in order to implement the commercialization of the ordinary production. The products of this craving for perfection are frequently monstrous objects, in performance and naturally (but is not important) in the price. The look, instead, dimensions apart, are usually attracting and demonstrate that next to the engineers works profitably good designers

A false-thin

Is without exception the turntable L-07D that despite its 31 Kg. and its diagonal of about 70 cm. shows a look relatively "light" helped also by the missing dust cover: against the strong enemy a velvet cloth is supplied that can be laid on the equipment when not in use. With the intention to reach the maximum rigidity the base of the TT has been made of a special plastic material interfused by layers of die-casting aluminum; to it are integral the motor, the arm and the 4 feet adjustable in height which allow, together to the built-in spirit level, to perform a perfect leveling of the TT. The lot is suitably reinforced (and additionally making heavier) by a thick plank of multilayer mahogany fixed to the frame by some 30 bolts. The platter is equally complex: to the main die-cast aluminum part it is screwed, underneath, a duralumin disk, while above there is a non-magnetic inox disk. And the mat? Pointless to look for it in the box, the mat is the inox disk! For years we have been told to believe that this indispensable accessory should have been soft and "amorphous": rubber, lattice, natural leather...at the end Kenwood came along! From the fully comprehensive manual we learn that to remove the platter we don't need to spoil our nails, it is sufficient to screw in the threaded holes the two supplied little bolts and lift the disk like a manhole cover. To spin such a platter (5 kg. in total) it has been provided a direct drive motor fixed to the base by six 5 mms. bolts. The rotor is pushed upwards by a magnetic field that reduces the load and therefore the friction on the inox ball that support the entire rotating mass. The quartz lock control circuit together with the power supply unit are located in a separate box on which are positioned the on/off switch and an electronic switch that varies the promptness of the control system: the latter needs to be employed when the Kenwood outer record stabilizer (see page 70-71) is used, of which high inertia moment, added to the platter one, would slow down the action of the controls given by the regulator. The promptness of the starter is not high (around 2 seconds) but in our point of view is more than sufficient; much faster is the stopping, implemented by an electromagnetic brake assisted by a mechanical brake of which main

function is to stop with reliability the platter avoiding the inertia low spin or to reverse the motion in case of the device going out of tune.

The tone arm has a complex structure made of aluminum, carbon fiber and boron, with the declared scope to obtain, with the combination of different materials, a reduction of the resonance amplitude and, with their lightness, a shifting of the problem above the dangerous warping area. The shell is built by a laminar structure of 7 layers of carbon-boron for excellent characteristics (Kenwood say) of lightness and rigidity. The supporting shaft, inserted in its seat, can be adjusted in height through a crank equal to a precision micro-lathe: to up lift the arm by only 1 mm. you need 10 turns; once reached the needed height (the tone arm parallel to the surface of the record) you need to block the position by moving several time an awkward lever that engages with great difficulty. But this is nothing in comparison to the complicated anti-skating system: equipped with a nylon wire that only after a long and patient work can be set to perform, but that only a small shake puts it out of the thread guide.

Top rating

Equipments like the Kenwood turntable, because of the disturbance they create, due to their weight and dimensions, they are not usually "loved" when they reach the editorial office. May be this is the reason why, once on the testing bench, they become object of great care so that they give excellent results and therefore rewarding towards the operator (It is re-known that the accuracy and patience of the operator are indispensable to obtain the maximum results during the "mechanical" tests of a turntable). Also this TT had the treatment it deserves: it answered a little coldly to the wow and flutter measure ("only" an optimum linear 0.055% and 0.045% weighted), but what was amazing was the entire measurement reading, from the pick-up needle to our eyes always suspicious and unbelievers, in the measure of the S/N ratio: to the excellent values of the results with the test record followed the supremacy numbers with the Thorens probe which, also if not fully exhaustive (overlooking in fact the possible symmetric vibrations of the platter in relation to the axle), is nevertheless immune from the disturbances induced by the test record. More than the extremely high 82.5/85.5 db weighted, impresses the 60/63 db of the linear measure, which underlines the exceptional control of vibrations at low frequency. Probably the result justify the commitment profuse in the execution and its consequences on the selling price... Of course, these are not the details that would change the sound of the system, but at image levelwe know that the L-07D contends already the seat of honor to the Technics SP10 MK II in the main hi-fi show-rooms of Japan. The other performances gathered on the test bench, less interesting for the quality evaluation of the equipment, are on the whole more than good and in line with the best turntables on the market. We only note the connecting cables capacity (around 170 pF) that seems to confirm the tendency to abandon the use of ultra reduced values, usually unsuitable to produce an ideal interface between cartridge-amplifier, due to the high capacity values required by the majority of the cartridges on the market.

To the L-07D, considered its exceptional "noiselessness" we give TOP RATING. *F.Gatta*

Insets of page 46

Top left

In brief the Kenwood L-07D test

AESTHETIC: An object of large dimensions but far from been vulgar and aggressive. Almost beautiful .	9
CONTROLS & VERSATILITY: Two fixed speeds and a tone arm difficult to set. A second tone arm can however be assembled.	8
CONSTRUCTION: Extremely accurate and ultra robust, Very good also the finishing.	10
PERFORMANCE: Exceptional signal to noise ratio. Excellent also all the other data	10
PRICE: No comment on an object so "hors concours" . Price anyhow high for a turntable.	7
	44/50

Captions

Middle photo

1. The direct drive motor is fed by DC for a more precise control.

Top right above

2. The 4 feet are adjustable in height.
3. The platter is made of two parts accurately fixed one to the other. 4. The "mat" is made in inox: to up lift it is required the use of two specific bolts.

Top right below

7. The only control on the TT are STOP, START and change of speed. 8. In this position it is possible to assemble a second tone arm 9. The connecting cables, with gold-plated plugs, have large section but with medium capacity (around 170 pF)

Insets of page 47

Captions

Top left

6. The wire of the anti-skating is difficult to assemble and it comes out of the thread guide at the minimum shacking.

Top right

5. The hand lever is used to change the height of the arm; the big lever to block it in position, once reached the needed height

Bottom

10. The tone arm has a triple structure of aluminum, carbon/boron fiber. The shell a laminar structure of 7 layers of carbon/boron.

Page 48

Kenwood L-07D: the measures

Nominal rotation speed_difference				The accuracy of the quartz is much superior to the customer's needs. Excellent values
Wow & flutter	Linear	weighted		
Signal to Noise ratio	Linear	weighted		
	Left			
	Right			Very good
Signal to noise ratio with Thorens probe				Overall the best values ever encountered by IAF (Istituto Alta Fedelta')
Starting time				Not as lightning but adequate also for professional use Extremely precise
Accuracy of the weights scale				
Calibration of the anti-skating scale on the grooveless test record	Real weight	Scale		The anti-skating scale is not calibrated for the grooveless test record
Cables capacity	Left	Right		Within the average of the most recent turntables
Tangent error				Once assembled the cartridge following the instructions (overhang 15 mm.), the related error (broken line) doesn't give worrying values. It could be reduced augmenting slightly the overhang (that would imply approximately an uplift of the entire curve).

Page 71

IRON YOUR RECORDS

Although the vinyl represents one of the most valid support presently available for music, it is not exempt from defects.

These accessories propose to minimize some of these defects.

Everybody buying records, with difficulty must have found one that put on the turntable did not resemble a wavy sea. These warps of the record produce a negative impact on the electro-mechanic transducer system, namely, the cartridge bouncing along generate distortions (due to the variation of the tracking angle and of the tracking force), unwanted signals at sub-sonic frequencies, that in some case can saturate the preamplifier. The outer disk stabilizer Kenwood DS 20, resting on the external crown of the record, should work roughly like an iron, eliminating the warps of the disk; according to the Kenwood technicians, used in combination with the DS 21, central stabilizer (almost necessary to avoid central warps of the disk considering the high weight of the DS 20), deaden the vibration of the record, augmenting the mechanical impedance seen by the needle.

An additional improvement can be achieved replacing the traditional "vulgar" mat with the TS 10 mat, made in ceramic with open pore, weighing as much as Kg. 1.2 and with an inertia moment of 130Kg/sq.cm. Thanks to its very high rigidity the danger of vibrations is even more kept away. Considering that the three pieces looked very nice aesthetically, we became curious and "stole" from the editorial office the monstrous Kenwood L-07D, to verify the efficiency of the entire Kenwood set. Real advantages have been detected with disks warped in the centre that the DS 21 helped by the DS 20 managed to flatten on the mat. In turn the TS10 looked almost indispensable when the other two accessories are used, since, being these latter very heavy, soft rubber mat would flex with consequences easily imaginable. In short, one can't deny that these Kenwood accessories have some utility (excluding those records with a diameter lower than the average that the DS 20 can't couple); evaluating the ratio quality/price, considering the precious material employed and the excellent finishing, these products represent the best you can find in the sector.

(Translation from the Italian made by Roberto Salafia: r.salafia@tin.it)