

AUDIO 6

SPECIFICATION AND TEST RESULTS GARRARD GT25P TURNTABLE

	Maker's Specification	Test Result	Reviewer's Comments
1. Speeds (rpm)	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ and 45	Accurate	Synchronous with mains
2. Wow and flutter (% at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm)	0.12% peak DIN	0.11% peak 0.09% average	A reasonable result at this price range
3. Rumble (dB)	-43 DIN A	-42	A good result
4. Turntable diameter (mm)	310	310	—
5. Turntable weight (kg)	—	1.2 (2lb 10oz)	A useful weight for flywheel effect in stabilizing speed
6. Turntable material	Diecast aluminium	—	—

Maker's data: 4-pole synchronous motor, with S-shaped pickup arm, magnesium alloy headshell and semi-automatic operation. Manufacturer: Garrard Engineering Ltd., Newcastle Street, Swindon, Wilts., SN1 1DA. Recommended price: £108.44 complete with Shure M75ED/II cartridge.

pletely free from rock, and the shaft carries a gear which drives an internally clogged belt which operates the automatic stop and reject mechanism.

The top surface of the plinth carries a two-position speed selector in the left front corner, which is balanced by two rotary controls at the right corner for auto-reject and start-stop. The pickup arm is mounted on a raised dais which also includes a lever-operated lowering device and the anti-skating control. The polished aluminium arm is S-shaped and carries a plug-in headshell with a fitting comparable to that used on SME Series II arms. However, as the locating pin on an SME headshell is slightly longer than that used by Garrard, it would be possible to use an SME headshell only by carefully filing down the locating pin. The Garrard headshell is made from a magnesium alloy and snugly houses the supplied Shure M75ED/II cartridge. Two slots are cast into the headshell so that the cartridge can be mounted at the optimum overhang position for smallest tracking error. If one wishes to use another make of cartridge, the front edge of the headshell might restrict the amount of longitudinal movement.

The lateral and vertical pivot friction is minimal, but there is some movement in the lower bearing of the mounting pillar. The arm is counterbalanced by means of a rotating weight which also carries a black calibrated barrel, the markings being in quarter-gram increments from 0.3 grams. The effective length of the arm is 230mm and the effective mass, when using a 5g cartridge, is 17g. The vertical and lateral pivots use miniature ball races and jewels. The arm can be locked in position for transit purposes, and the arm lowering lever is viscously damped. Two scales, calibrated 0 to 3 grams, surround the anti-skating control, one for elliptical styli, the second for CD-4 type styli.

At the rear of the plinth are duplicated sockets for DIN and phono plugs together with an earth terminal. A twin-core mains lead, some 190cm long, plugs into a recessed socket. The turntable unit is mounted on a neat teak surround but, as an alternative, a grey low-profile surround can be supplied. The base is made from hardboard on which are mounted

four soft rubber bushes. Supplied with the unit is a well documented instruction manual which covers all three new models, and a low-capacitance audio connecting lead with DIN and phono plugs, thus making the connections to any form of amplifier input a simple matter.

How it performed

Wow and flutter measurement was made with a Woelke 102B meter, and the figures were slightly better than the maker's specification. Rumble measurement was made with a CBS STR120 test record and although my measurement is 1dB worse than that claimed, it is commendably low for a modestly priced turntable. In a very quiet room it is impossible to hear the turntable in operation. The pickup is gently lowered by the viscously damped lever, but it takes 2-3 seconds for the stylus to reach the record. At the end of the record the arm is automatically lifted and returned to its support pillar, and the motor is switched off. To play the next record, one must raise the cue lever, but this operates rather jerkily when it lifts the arm. Lifting the arm during play and then returning it to the record normally returns the stylus to the same groove.

Airborne feedback became audible only at volume levels greatly in excess of those used for domestic purposes, and was improved by several dB by closing the lid. The hinges on the lid allow one to position it at practically any angle, or it can be readily removed. All measurements were made with the Shure cartridge supplied but, as the arm pivots offered negligible stiction, tests were made with higher compliance cartridges. No difficulty was found in using cartridges such as the Shure V15/III with a playing weight of 1g.

With an ever-increasing number of turntables in the market-place, and those specifically designed for highest quality reproduction selling in the hundreds of pounds bracket, one tends to forget the requirements of the more modest purchaser. This new range of Garrard turntables should fill this requirement: their sleek and attractive appearance, ease of operation and excellent functioning make them good value for money.

JOHN GILBERT.

vigorously realistic drum roll and excellent presence of the version of *God save the Queen* which greeted him from stacked pairs of electrostatic loudspeakers driven by the 405 current-dumping amplifier which, as the Queen's representative, he had been sent to honour; and honour it and its makers he did, pointing out that these awards for high technology were comparatively rare and not lightly given.



Acoustical Managing Director, Peter Walker, receives his company's Queen's Award from the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge

Peter Walker in his 'thank you' speech made the point that if only Britain would consistently make well finished products of high intrinsic quality, and back them with good old fashioned service, then the world's markets would be ours. He preferred to explore and develop new approaches to old problems rather than adapt and modify hackneyed solutions in an attempt to claim something new. 'Current dumping' came from just such a concept, and its rapid and wide acceptance as a valuable new technique was the Company's real reward. Britain's reward came from the export figures; last year every single Quad employee, from himself to the girls in the packing department, earned an average £15,000 in foreign currency, something of a record he thought, and he was unstinting in his praise of his design team and workforce.

Afterwards I talked to many of the employees, including one of those girls in the packing department, an extrovert young lady rejoicing (for obvious reasons) in the nickname of Fuzzy. She and her companions, in return, were rich in their praises of the way the Company was run and how unexpected little touches kept them together. They cited the arrival of free ice-creams on a particularly blistering day, the end of the latest fuel crisis when each one of them was rewarded for weeks of working in overcoats by flowers and a gift, excursions to Paris, Amsterdam and the very next day, Jersey. I noted a further example, the presence in the guest list and a seat at the reception for what Walker calls his pensioners; long-time servants of the Company, now retired or having left the district. I met the very sweet lady who made the Corner Ribbon loudspeaker back in the 1950s and Charlie Redman who for 27 years had something to do with cutting, bending, sawing, drilling or welding almost every piece of metal that passed through the factory.

Yes, Quad is obviously a very happy family and never happier than when an occasion like this provides a release from the everyday relationships. GRAMOPHONE joins in congratulating this excellent company and its highly respected 'Guvnor' on a very well deserved award. G.H.

Audio Circles

Quad awarded

Friday at Quad's Huntingdon factory is usually a bustling scene of activity, its forecourt full of cars and the service road alive with lorries delivering or collecting. Not so on the afternoon of June 16th when the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge, Lt-Col Hon P. E. Brassey arrived to present The Acoustical Manufacturing Company with the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. A very spruce Managing Director, Peter Walker, was at the doorway

greeting his chosen guests and there, too, was his wife Peggy and their son and daughter, for Quad is still a family firm in the very best British tradition. Inside, his larger family of employees had seen to it that the place was shipshape and ready for inspection, following which they all trooped into the factory canteen, smart in its Quad colours, to witness the brief ceremony.

The Lord Lieutenant, not versed in high fidelity, was obviously rather taken aback by the