

Audiomods series IV tonearm

A new performance

With over 250 examples of the original and series III arms in use, the Audiomods arm has established a reputation for a level of performance that can be compared with some of the most expensive tonearms in the World and it's becoming increasingly common to find it partnered with very exotic turntables and cartridges.

While we've continually made improvements to quality and build details, this revision is the first real performance upgrade.

The key change is to the bearings inside the base of the arm - the "horizontal bearings". A new design of the bearing carrier and shaft makes a more rigid structure with extra room for free movement for the delicate signal wires. The result is a real improvement in clarity and detail retrieval.

The silver litz signal wires now run inside sections of protective tubing to avoid any contact with the metal of the arm to reduce microphony.

A new look

The most obvious change is a new, smaller micrometer. As well as improving the look and balance of the arm there are practical advantages:

the weight is significantly reduced, making it easier to install

on suspended turntables and the reduced height - down to 68mm - allows the arm to fit underneath most turntable covers. Despite the neat size the micrometer still gives about 10mm of very precise vta adjustment.

To complete the new look, we've retired the plastic Rega arm rest and substituted a solid, custom-made aluminium one. Does it work better? No. Does it look better? Definitely!

...and some new features

The performance of any arm depends upon how accurately it can be set up and to help get the best from the Series IV arms we include some tools for precise cartridge matching and adjustment.

Accurately matching the effective mass of the arm to the chosen cartridge is important and, as the cartridge compliance goes down, the arm mass needed goes up, so low-compliance cartridges are usually matched to



Lighter, smaller vta micrometer

Redesigned horizontal bearing assembly

Alloy arm rest

New vta finger lock

Optional cryo-treated signal wires and arm tube casting

Optional gold plating for counterweights and detailing

higher mass arms. This creates two problems: first the arm choice locks you in to a narrow range of suitable cartridges and, in sonic terms, the higher the arm tube mass the more energy it can store and reflect back to the cartridge.

So the Audiomods arm tube is kept deliberately

light without compromising the rigidity and we match to a very wide range of cartridges by including two counterweights and a set of headshell shims which add mass where it's needed most. The heavier shims are of annealed copper and will suit cartridges of low compliance and light body weight. The light alloy shims will fine-tune many moving coil choices.

A comprehensive set of cartridge screws is supplied, complete with nylon and brass nuts, and a reference gauge to set the cartridge square for both vta and azimuth. As always, each arm is individually numbered, made to order and packed in a wooden presentation box.

...and the future

Will this be the final development of the arm? Very likely not. Analogue reproduction can always improve and there is always a little more to be had from a record groove so the design will continue to evolve. We will continue to offer a future-proof upgrade path for all our arms, right back to the very first prototypes, so any of our products can be updated to the latest specification with a full credit against the original price.

AUDIOMODS

5 Tormore Mews, Rectory Road, Deal, Kent CT14 9SX, England
Tel: +44 (0)1304 379698

www.audiomods.co.uk