

Getting More Out Of Your Old 78s

If your old turntable was a common, everyday machine in the 1980s or early 90s, it's probably got a couple of things that are less than perfect. First, it may not run at exactly the right speed and, second, it may not have the speeds you need - like 80rpm, for example.

"80 rpm? Why in the world would I need that?" The answer is interesting when we consider the early days of recording. You see, record companies in those days all had their own ideas about the best way to record and play audio. Some thought that audio should be recording in an "up and down" motion of the stylus. Others thought that records were best recorded with the beginning of the audio on the inside of the record. And it seems that everyone had their own idea of what speed should be used to record and play discs.

Edison liked 80rpm and used this speed for his thick Diamond Discs. These also are "vertical cut" records. Berliners and some early Victor's used 71.26 rpm. Acoustic Victor's from the early 1920s and before used 76.59 rpm and, of course, the common, plain 78 used 78 rpm.

Wrong. The common, plain 78 really needs to be played back at 78.26 rpm.

So what do you do with this Tower of Babel of record speeds? There are really two answers - you can use Diamond Cut to convert from any speed to any other speed as long as you are perfectly sure what the original playback speed is. Or, if you would like a modern, mechanically sound new turntable you can get one that offers all the popular speeds.

Like the Rek-o-Kut Vintage 2 we are offering this month. The Vintage 2 offers you ALL the speeds you might need. It's got settings for 33.33, 45, 71.29, 76.59, 78.26, 80 rpm. That's right it's got ALL the settings you might ever need.

But that's not all. It's also got a lot of other stuff. Here's the list:

- Audiotechnica cartridge
- Comes with LP AND 3.0 mil 78rpm stylus - a big savings
- Plexiglass dust cover included
- Strobe disc included
- Auto return! The tonearm will automatically return at the end of a record. A hard to find feature today.

This is a pretty cool system. Check it out here:

<http://www.tracertek.com/khxc/index.php?app=ccp0&ns=prodshow&ref=VintageII>