

TO JUPITER AND BEYOND!

A slogan of the Sixties space-race (or Toy Story!) or the sign of an adventurous vinyl record player? Certainly the latter: Transrotor's Jupiter offers almost galactic possibilities.

When is a turntable not a turntable? When it's two turntables – you see, the two models below actually originate from the same base, and both bear the name Transrotor Jupiter. It's a familiar path for the analog specialist from Bergisch Gladbach in Germany, allowing it to drive its development and expansion program forward by offering a turntable both as a basic version, and also as a full-house version. It also allows the buyer to start with the entry-level

version, then upgrade to the ultimate stage by stage, rather as one might tune a racing bicycle or sports car over time.

That's how STEREO tested the Jupiter – or rather the Jupiters – and while it must be said that even in its entry-level version this turntable already captures the imagination, when one moves up to the top model one is in on a whole different planet. The basic Jupiter is already an impressive record player, being built on a circular base plate of black acrylic,

and with a sound to match that style; the top version offers a rarely heard suppleness aided by timing that runs as liquid-smoothly as oil.

But wait: before we start exploring the outer limits, let's clarify what's offered by the rather more down to earth model. Its gravitational center is a whopping nine-kilogram metal platter with damping plastic inserts, protrudes prominently to the left of the chassis. For optimum coupling it is supported via the opulent bearing block on a solid aluminum base with a ceramic ball, which in turn sits on a flat aluminum disc. The other two supports are formed by threaded rods adjustable from above, their rounded bottom ends resting in cupped holders, allowing easy horizontal alignment of the Jupiter, so it spins perfectly level.

Apart from the smart mounting with point-shaped-coupled mass, the parts and the construction here is well known from other Transrotors – but then why reinvent what already works so well? So the design engineers here again put their faith in the

At € 2,500, the basic Jupiter model already features sophisticated design and impeccable finish. From here, everything is possible, but nothing really necessary. Only the pickup cartridge might be improved. ▼



The basic package includes Goldring's Elektra MM cartridge (left); full-house requires Transrotor's high-end MC Figaro. ▶

proven synchronous motor, embedded in an aluminum profile, which is placed either as a small satellite driving the bearing plate from there, or – in the case of an external control unit – in a hollow below the platter connected by short belt.

Another old friend – and a worthwhile one – is the precise and neatly made S tone arm by Jelco from Japan, operating in Germany as S-800. In addition to its play-free bearings and the immaculate finish, we especially like the fact that the headshell can be replaced in a jiffy, allowing swift switching from one pickup cartridge to another.. Tracking force and anti-skating is also adjustable in no time at all, thanks to precise scales on the counterbalance weight and a side wheel.

Expandable base unit

At almost €2,500*, the Transrotor Jupiter comes complete with the Goldring



Elektra MM pickup cartridge, but otherwise without additional features. However, that's no problem: it's got everything you need, and even the inexpensive Goldring benefits from the precise tracking of the high-quality arm and the stability of the motor unit in its basic version.

The bass pulses of „If I Could“ by the Blues Company from the new STEREO listening test LP II were simply fantastic: dry and gruff, they had both force and contoured shape, while lead singer Toscho's sonorous voice was intact, even though the small Jupiter's tonal balance doesn't deliver the most lavish timbres. Nevertheless, with

Wolfgang Bernreuther's moving „For Ole“ from the same disc the Jupiter captured the elegiac and thoughtful but not sad mood, with the casual atmosphere coming to the fore in the precision aligned and perfectly organized soundscape of Lyn Stanley's „A Summer Place „.

The debut Jupiter is without question not just the full-fledged turntable you'd expect for €2,500*, but more. With the Ortofon MC Quintet Blue (around €400*), it gained in bass weight, delivered better differentiation of tonal color range, especially in the crucial mid-band, and so appeared overall even more

*All prices listed are German retail prices incl. VAT valid at the time of evaluation.

The full-house Jupiter is the high-end turntable par excellence, which fulfils one's heart's desire and simultaneously underlines Transrotor's expertise. ▼



DAC 8 DSD High-End D/A converter

Super HD for all formats



The new DAC 8 DSD is equipped with unique T+A converters, and actually features separate converters for DSD and PCM. The True 1-bit Converter processes DSD files up to DSD 512, while the Quadruple Converter (8 x 32-bit) handles PCM files up to 384 kSps. It could be described as the perfect unit for use with digital sources in a classic High-End system which is not capable of processing digital sources directly, or not at sufficiently high quality.

But it is even more capable than this: with its superb pre-amplifier and sophisticated volume control it can also drive very high-quality output stages or active speakers, enabling it to take its place as the High-End command centre of a complete system. The DAC 8 DSD now also features an outstanding headphone amplifier capable of handling high currents, designed for use with High-End headphones.

The DAC 8 DSD offers comprehensive connection facilities:

Symmetrical and asymmetrical outputs, 1 digital output, 7 digital inputs, 1 high-res computer USB input (Device Mode), SYS IN socket for connecting source devices, CTRL socket for external control and updates.



T+A



◀ Three aluminum pucks are embedded in the sub-platter. These are to calm stray vibrations – and they look great.



▲ The Jupiter is a 25 mm thick disk made of black acrylic.

pleasing – never lazy but always playing “to the point”.

So, given this basic performance, can a full-featured Jupiter take you out of this world? After having both units side by side, with the luxury of making instant comparisons, we’d say the answer is an emphatic ‘yes’: it was as if someone had pushed buttons marked „peace“, „self-evident“ or „charisma“. and, in particular, „instinct”.

The change is immediate when you retrofit the Jupiter with the “sub-platter”, its feet – whether made of ceramic or metal – standing in small polymer dampers. The €880* platter (all accessory prices apply when purchased with the turntable, increasing by ten percent when bought later) gives the playback a more relaxed character, while adding the can-shaped „Konstant Eins“ motor controller increases vibrancy. Selling for around €300*, the controller has a rotating “lid” with which you set and change the speed., and with these two improvements, the Jupiter’s timing becomes more acute: instead of marching stiffly and unswervingly, the Transrotor now follows the predetermined rhythm like a light-footed dancer.

These effects are hardly surprising, knowing how improvements such as a

reinforced “backbone” and a precise supply can improve many other turntables, including Transrotor’s. Nevertheless, it is always fun again to trace the tonal influences of the accessories, and it is handy that you can retrofit all the parts piece by piece to what is already a very good turntable even in “basic” form.

For example, at some point we’re sure you’ll be ready to appreciate the fine dynamic subtleties and the smooth flow that the decoupling TMD-bearing (around €680*) brings. In the „Transrotor Magnetic Drive“ the bottom bearing plate driven by the belt pushes the top plate carrying the platter by magnetic force whose „cushion“ absorbs tiny irregularities. We’d promote the sub-platter and the motor controller to all those who aspire to an even better Jupiter, but the TMD-bearing is the icing on the cake for those who want to go even higher.

Jupiter – the outer limits

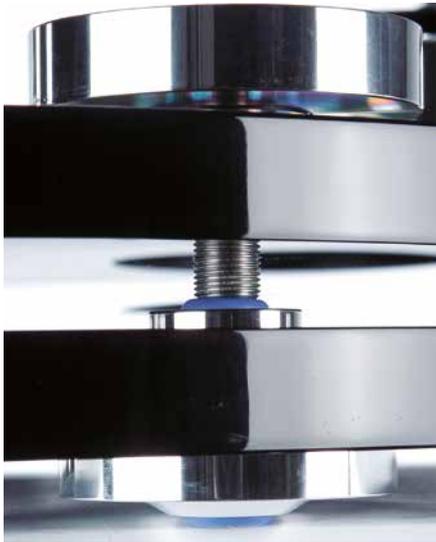
But you don’t have to stop there: you can continue on your journey. You add the correspondingly designed „solid“ arm base for €500*, which is good for twelve-inch arms – for this purpose we chose a long SME 5012 with a magnesium tube and pure silver cabling, which, reduced, costs €3,565*, and fitted it with Transrotor’s fantastic „Figaro“ MC cartridge, available as part of this package at €2,000* instead of €2,500*.

So equipped, the Jupiter moved ever closer to the centre of the reference universe, delivering exceptional musicality

This view shows the design: the bearings on the left carrying the heavy plate is coupled with pinpoint accuracy. ▼



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▲When using the sub-platter, feet are mounted in blue polymer dampers.

and what you could only describe as “butter-soft precision”. „For Ole“ was presented in the tiniest details and with uninhibited flow – fascinating!

If that’s not enough, the fully-equipped Jupiter even takes on its big brother Rondino nero – although that model delivers nuances in a manner more stoic and unmoved, it wasn’t a patch on the in-house challenger, which achieved a more emotional response. It’s truly “out of this world”. *Matthias Böde*

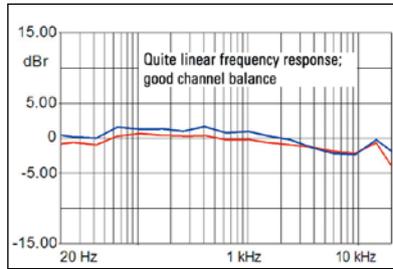
Contact: Råke Hi-Fi
SalesPhone: +49 2202/31046
www.transrotor.de/en.html

TRANSR. JUPITER – BASIC



About € 2,500* (incl. Tonearm Transrotor/Jelco S-800 and Goldring Elektra MM cartridge)
Required space: about 42 x 16 x 39 cm (WxHxD), Warranty: 2 years

The basic version of the Jupiter already comes with premium components and a soundscape that is as stable as it is vibrant. The supplied Goldring-MM has a slight presence sink (see chart), whereby it gains nuances in sonority. A powerful entry-level product!



FEATURES

One fixed and two height-adjustable feet with washers with rubber ring, changing from 33.33 to 45 by manually shifting the belt, platter weight.

STEREO-TEST

SOUND QUALITY **77%**

PRICE/PERFORMANCE



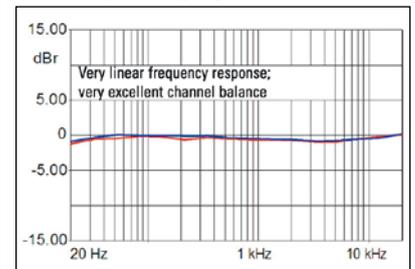
EXCELLENT

TRANSR. JUPITER – EXTENDED



About € 9,925* (incl. Tonearm SME 5012 and MC cartridge Transrotor Figaro)
Required space: about 49 x 20 x 39 cm (WxHxD), Warranty: 2 years

The „large“ Jupiter consistently builds on the premium-class base and extends it to its mechanical and electrical capabilities. The top arm and the splendid MC cartridge, which impresses with top values (see chart), make it an uncompromising high-end turntable.



FEATURES

Dampened sub-platter, motor controller unit with speed switch and fine control, TMD bearing, elaborate tone arm base, platter weight.

STEREO-TEST

SOUND QUALITY **98%**

PRICE/PERFORMANCE



VERY GOOD

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