

Opinions in freedom ... talking with Hartmut Janßen



1) Tell me of your early days... what brought you to become a turntables manufacturer among the most appreciated in the worldwide

When I was a student (it's meanwhile 35 years ago !!!), I tested a number of turntables that were currently the best (Goldmund, Linn, Thorens, Letalec etc). But I found again and again that many things were not perfect so I decided to construct my turntable

2) It was as difficult as you believed ?

Yes, it was strenuous because I wanted to do it better than other manufacturers. However, there were already music lovers in this period, which enjoy my turntables and who supported me because they believed in my ideas.

3) Where do you think the hi-end world now going?

Frankly, as long as there are no audio medias, which have a higher data density than the vinyl record, we can not do without the turntables.

4) How much space still exists for analog technology and for his development?

Better is the enemy of good - which means that things can be optimized furthermore ... but as I said just now, the record is the medium with the highest data density and it is the best audio medium that we have ... also in future it is worthwhile to investigate for a more than 100 year old heritage

5) Why did you choose the belt drive rather than the direct drive in your turntables?

The belt drive is the drive which can keep away the influence of the motor (for example, cogging torque) to the platter best. Direct drives have to contend not only with cogging torque but also by the effects of the control processes which makes the timing inaccurate.

6) One of your key factors is the elimination of metal springs in your turntables. Which are at your opinion the advantages of this choice?

AMAZON turntables are neither hard coupled nor use metal springs, which would always - no matter how good they would be damped - force distortion signals onto the turntable because of their own resonance.

7) Can you explain the function of LRP dampers in your turntables?

Our dampers have no measurably natural resonance so they generate no distortion ...

8) Which is the rate of speed in your turntables?

33 and 45rpm

9) Do you think the possibility of change speed is important for the customer?

Yes, there are a lot of perfect recordings which are played by 45rpm.

10) One of the first factors for good vinyl playback is the quality of the power supply. How much do you think a power supply via NIMH affects the final sound?

Early on we realized, that a clean power supply is extremely important for a premium music reproduction. Therefore, we decided for the cleanest source of all, namely the rechargeable batteries. Accordingly, we use direct current motors for the drive. It's in their nature that they have a significantly better controlling noise spectrum than the AC motors. All this is audible - the calm in playback striking!

11) Which are the ideas behind your Grand Referenz and first Choice turntables?

The Grand Referenz has a lot of "genes" of our top model First Choice. Our intention was to develop an absolute State-of-the-Art turntable but for a price below the limit of EUR 12.000,00.

12) At your opinion which are the Morch arms that can reach the best synergy with the Amazon 1, Amazon 2 and Amazon Referenz?

You can combine any Morch tonearm with each of our AMAZON turntables. But for an optimal price-performance ratio we recommend the UP-4 for AMAZON 2, DP-6 for AMAZON 1 and DP-8 for AMAZON Referenz and AMAZON Grand Referenz.

13) Which other arms work well with your turntables?

Every really good tonearm ... that depends of course also on which cartridge should be used.

14) Pick-ups? Only moving coil?

Each principle has its strengths. I personally prefer MCs.

15) Have you ever experienced on your turntables pick-ups as Clearaudios and Grados?

Yes, sure. I think I have heard meanwhile almost all existing cartridges and have of course my preferences.

16)What kind of support are the best for your turntables? Heavy support or rigid and light support?

The quality of sound reproduction highly depends on the right installation. We recommend a solid place with low resonances. This could be a table, a rack-construction or a wall-shelf. For the installation in a rack or shelf we recommend a MDF board coated with bitumen (But attention! mass is no cure-all. It's better to use light and rigid materials with low resonances than to use too much mass.) Materials such as glass, stone or ceramics are not suitable.

17)Why the choice of open baffle for your loudspeaker ?

The open baffle design utilizes no coupled enclosure, thereby avoiding any undesirable sonic side effects usually associated therewith, which in turn lends an impressive liveliness and stunning dynamics to the sonic reproduction, completely devoid of any "boxiness". By experimenting with the speaker's positioning in the room, you can also influence the room's acoustic response in respect of critical modes, due to the speaker's dipole design.

18)With what kind of crossover you has solved the problem of matching a driver as the AMT with a woofer of 38 cm at 700 hz frequency?

We use not only crossovers in the classical sense but also mechanical filters. Keyword: Huygens-Fresnel principle. Especially as a designer of dipole speakers, it is not bad to be at home in the principles of mechanical physics

19)How you have solved the breakout problems of the woofer membrane?

Due to its lightweight, yet stiff membrane, the woofer's ultra-fast response constitutes a perfect match for the A.M.T, which is renowned for its extremely short rise time. Instead of long strokes, the woofer works with a high membrane surface and a powerful generator. Our woofers have a maximum stroke of 3mm, which prevents them to fall into breakup.

20)Your loudspeaker is an easy load for the amplifier? Can be driven from push-pull tube amps equals or greater than 25 watts?

Yes, our speakers are an easy load for amps (91db; impedance minimum 3,2 Ohm). They work also well with amps less than 25W but of course for party volume we recommend an amp with 50 Watt or a little more.

21)You prefer the solid state or tube technology ?

Again: each principle has its strengths. I personally prefer solid state Class-A amps.

22)Which is the optimal distance from the wall of the room for listening your speakers?

Optimal would be when the distance between the baffle and the rear wall is 1/4 of the room depth. But also a distance of approx. 70 - 80cm is nearly perfect. The distance to the side walls does not matter due to the dipole characteristic.

23)Do you believe that the listener should be at the top of classic equilateral triangle?

Optimal would be when the listening distance = stereo basis multiplied by 0,93. Here a practical example: Assuming the stereo basis is 3.00m wide, the listening distance will amount to approximately 2.80m.

24)What's on your desk right now?

Our new phono amplifier! We presented it at the Munich High End Show and the demand is really great.

25)Have you been satisfied about the response of customers to your products ?

Yes, we are very happy about the response - meantime we export to more than 25 countries worldwide.