

Linn Sondek LP12 Reviews



LINN



Sondek LP12

Michael Fremer, *Stereophile*, November 2003

"I've spent the past eight years listening to all manner of analog gear, from a \$29,000 phono section to a \$74,000 turntable. I've heard some astounding stuff, and I own some that's pretty good. I can't step into this review and tell you that my life has been changed by listening to the LP12, that formerly I hadn't ever found the Holy Grail but that now, for the first time, blah blah blah. I can tell you that...the LP12 is an outstanding piece of mechanical engineering undiminished by time...This may be a review of a system, but the LP12 is still the central component, and it's somewhat intimidating writing about the turntable that, in 1972, turned audio upside down and sent turntables back to belt drive. Three decades later, the LP12 continues its strong hold ...Everything its fans say about it is true: It can carry a tune, it's well-paced, and it has impressive bass extension and supple and believable bass transients. More important, the whole Linn picture hung together seamlessly, as you should expect from any front-end rig costing more than \$10,000. The system, as reviewed, was super-quiet. It didn't sound soft or mushy in the bass, nor did it sound old-fashioned. It had a rich, believable midband and fast, clean high-frequency transients. The soundstaging and imaging were excellent....The Sondek LP12 remains in production because it was a good design to begin with, has since only improved, and is still competitive in its price class and beyond—especially when combined with Linn's ancillary products. It was a system I could easily live with because it made music that was believable."

Sondek LP12

Linn Sondek LP12 Turntable, Linn Lingo Power Supply, Linn Ekos Tone Arm *AUDIOPHILE Magazine*, April 2002

„...The new Lingo is an unexpectedly big improvement, so after 30 years the LP12 is still the musical reference among real-world turntables...”

Sondek LP12

Stereotimes.com, February 2002

Linn Sondek LP12 The LP12 is a fabulous table right out of the box. Given about a month of regular use, it will sound world-class WITHOUT ANY TWEAKING! While not quite plug and play (it still requires an initial set-up), it will run maintenance free for years. You might indulge in a bi-annual check-up. The sound you'll get is neutral, full bodied, with a bias to the warm side (this is good), open, direct and dynamic. ... And electronics... well, the list goes on.

Sondek LP12

The Express, November 1999

FROM THE WIRELESS TO THE WIDGET, GADGETS THAT DEFINED AN AGE '1972 Linn Sondek LP12 Turntable (One of the best record decks ever made)'

Sondek LP12

Rolling Stone, US, June 1998

The mother of all turntables. During the review process, we used it every day, feasting on the backdrop of often-perfect silence, the full and well-rounded bass, the vivid mid-range and the way Linn's system makes even well-worn records sound brand-new. Where the mechanical process of LP playback is concerned, there's no excuse for the experience, precision and no-compromise attitude behind this 'table. It is positively addicting.

Sondek LP12

Hi-Fi News & Record Review, October 1997

As Linn celebrates 25 years of the LP12 with a special-edition turntable, we arrange an anniversary shoot-out. Is the 1997 Linn Sondek really better than one you could have bought in 1972?.

By Ken Kessler.

'...so close are the overall scores that Linn's designers and staff can be satisfied in knowing they got it right all so long ago. By all means make your way through the upgrade path. But if you can't afford to uprate an earlier example, you can sleep just as easily as the owner of the 1997 vintage.'

Sondek LP12

Q Magazine, August 1997

System Review. 'As for the myth that vinyl is dead, don't believe a word until they stop making decks like these'.

Lingo - Power Supply for Sondek LP12

Stereotimes, March 2003

"..it was surprising when I switched to the new one. Tonality and timbre remained the same, but just about everything else got better. This is one of those changes where instantly the soundstage's dimensions expand. The stage is seamlessly populated just as it should be - fewer gaps between the instruments. Instrument sections are brought to a more life-like scale... the differences are not subtle. There's more density in the space, it's more full of events. The aforementioned soundstage depth cues on this recording are enhanced. Very solid and stable images are layered into the receding distance..the differences are not subtle. If you don't have a Lingo, now's the time to act. If you already have one installed, consider adding this replacement to your upgrade list

Lingo - Power Supply for Sondek LP12

Hi-Fi World , July 2002

"A cracking upgrade to any LP12. The new Lingo delivers a full and spacious sound that's totally addictive."

Lingo - Power Supply for Sondek LP12

LINGO, Image Hifi, 2/2002, February 2002

„...You didn't believe that after 10 years Linn would not come up with some worthwhile improvements, did you? But the new Lingo is so much more than the sum of its parts. It scores heavily where the legendary Scottish turntable has already been miles ahead of its competition – sense of rhythm, flexibility and natural musical flow. At the end of the day there's only one sensible recommendation for LP-12 owners: Buy it!..."

Linto

Linn Linto Direct Coupled Precision Phono Preamplifier Audiophile Audition USA, July 2002, July 2002

"If you own a preamp or receiver lacking a phono input and want to get the most out of your vinyl sources, the Linto is certainly a candidate for your serious consideration

Linto

Positive Feedback Magazine USA Vol 7, No.6, November 1998

Timbre and detail were exceptional...Dynamics were slammy whammy, punchy without being in your face, and free from mistracking and distortion. High frequency extension was remarkable, and I rated the soundstage and imaging as the best ever in my listening room on every well-known album that I listened to. Clearly, the Arkiv/Linto were elevating the vinyl experience to a remarkable level with the LP12.

Linto

Stereophile, US, June 1998

But with the Linto, everything fit the performance perfectly. Differences between quiet and quieter were easy to follow, down to the silence itself, and there never seemed to be any limit to how huge a group could sound - - every time a new musician entered, no matter how big the soundstage had been, it got bigger. This freedom from dynamic limitation is one of the things that distinguishes live music from recorded sound, and products that have more of it tend to sound more real. The Linn has it in spades.

Linto

Fi Magazine, US, May 1998

The Full Monty - (Review of Silver Anniversary LP12 Turntable with Linto) -

The Linto is, in fact, a supremely neutral component. It's hugely open and transparent, too, and seems to do nothing so much as expand the range of dynamic contrasts available from a system you might have thought had reached its excitement saturation point long ago. Like all the best phono components, the Linto gets more out of your records than you thought was there; for once, the cliché about staying up late at night, floor littered with the jackets and dust-sleeves of once-forgotten friends, is not a cliché but the plain truth.

Linto

Hi-Fi News & Record Review, September 1997

Into the Linto – A well-known vinyl diehard makes a special guest appearance here to assess Linn's new 'Silver anniversary phono stage. By Paul Messenger.

'The Linto is unquestionably a top class moving-coil cartridge pre-amplifier..' 'it will undoubtedly bring dramatic improvement to any Linn vinyl/m-c system'.