

Dear Martin

After having lived with your damper unit for the Project 9cc and 9cc Evolution arms I have to congratulate you on an expensive but very efficient means of considerably improving the output sound from vinyl recordings. I have tested the unit supplied to me last month on both arm models and there is improvement in both fidelity and imagery commensurate to spending considerably more than the unit cost on a 'better' cartridge.

Fitting the unit is a little fiddly to fit but the key points are well covered in the instructions. I found there is enough damper fluid for perhaps two refillings of the trough. I also found that only slight entry of the adjustable screw to the silicone fluid offers the greatest audible improvement and the screw arrangement makes it possible to get adjustment to the finest levels – the eighth and sixteenth turns mentioned in the manual although vinyl thickness obviously influences this anyway.

Listening to the sound of the standard arms the 9cc Evolution using the same cartridge yields slightly better bass and high frequency extension and clarity than the 9cc, but with the damper the 9cc closes the gap and shows marked improvement in imagery, sound stage and transparency. On the Evolution version of the arm the extension at frequency extremes is less noticeable but the mid frequency clarity shows up especially in vocal material, but also with orchestral music in general. In all cases the sound stage and imagery is substantially improved beautifully presented via both speakers and headphones. The sound is cleaned up and the orchestral instruments stretched out so you can differentiate individual sounds much more easily even in complex passages. Percussion sounds and leading edges are much improved and ambience is better maintained.

I have made some digital recordings at basic CD sampling levels and in comparison to commercial CD copies of records I have there is so much more life in my recordings, as if the music is really breathing despite being digital.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to purchase the damper. In my opinion it is money well spent. I recommend the damper to anybody who is using an Project 9cc or 9cc Evolution arm who wants to get the very best sound from it.

Regards and seasonal greetings

David