

A SECOND ARM:

THE SOUND HiFi  
DP-10

www.soundhifi.com

\$250

## DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

The Sound HiFi DP-10

By Jeff Dorgay

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he SME 10 remains one of my favorite turntables for a number of reasons; packing much of the performance of the costlier SME 20 into a compact chassis (especially with an SME V arm fitted) it's exquisitely built and feels like a much more expensive turntable. Like the rest of the SME range, it's easy to set up and it stays set up. However, I've always pondered how awesome it would be to have a 10 with two tonearms. Thanks to Dave Cawley at Sound HiFi in the UK, my dream is now a reality.

Mr. Cawley is a great guy with a nose for motorbikes and great analog. His TimeStep power supply upgrade for the Technics SP-1200 has been in use here for years and transforms this consumer table to a serious audiophile contender. While the DP-10 upgrade for the SME 10 doesn't improve sonics, it's an amazing upgrade for the analog lover who doesn't need a massive turntable.

My SME 10 is now living happily in Managing Editor Rob Johnson's system, and now that the TONE staff has made him a crazed analog person, he too has been itching for an alternative analog solution. The DP-10 is machined to the same standard as the rest of the SME

table, so it looks like a factory upgrade when complete. The entire process takes about five minutes and the necessary hex wrenches are included.

The DP-10 plate attaches to the left suspension tower, revealed once you remove the platter and subchassis. Wash those hands thoroughly before starting the operation so you don't get oil from your hands on the turntable belt. If in doubt, don some surgical gloves. Once tightened and aligned using your tonearm's alignment gauge, setup proceeds as it would with any other SME arm. You'll be spinning records with your other cartridge before you know it! (*continued*)



The DP-10 comes drilled for an SME tonearm, and for the purpose of this review, we pressed a spare SME V tonearm with the Kiseki Purple Heart cartridge we reviewed back in issue 67 into service. It proves to be a nice alternative to the Dynavector 17D3 that is the daily driver cartridge on the stock SME 10 arm, which is functionally almost identical to the 309.

If I were using this configuration on a 10 of my own, I think I'd opt for the SME V as the main arm and affix a vintage SME 3009 tonearm to take advantage of the range of removable headshells using this Ortofon-type mount. Using an Ortofon SPU on this table would be a major treat, but the second arm offers so many possibilities, it's up to you

whether you want to run a mega cartridge on one arm and daily driver on the other—or perhaps entertaining a mono cartridge on the other.

Either way, having a second tonearm/cartridge combination makes it easier to enjoy a wider range of records in your analog world, provided your phonostage has two inputs. Or maybe this opens up another upgrade opportunity?

So if having two tonearms on your SME 10 sounds like a cracking idea, give Mr. Cawley a call and tell him we sent you. The DP-10 is about two hundred pounds if you live in the UK. For US residents, it's just under two hundred fifty dollars plus shipping.

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