

# MANUFACTURERS' COMMENTS

## Dynamic Sounds Associates Phono II

More than just customary thanks are due to Stereophile for publishing its review of our new phono preamplifier, the Phono II. While we at Dynamic Sounds Associates (it's true- I'm not really all alone on this project) plan to broaden our line in the coming years, the Phono II is our only product at this time. We also have the simplest form of distribution possible-- we sell directly to audiophiles.

Because of this, critics of Stereophile have suggested that we were too small a company to be considered, or that we had to pay for advertising before we could get a review. We are happy to acknowledge that these comments were unfounded. When Michael Fremer heard about us, he graciously offered us the chance to get on his dance card, with his only motivation being an interest in our innovations and his love of audio.

As we have all come to expect, Michael produced a thorough and honest evaluation regarding all aspects of the unit. We are delighted by his confirmation of its performance, "...among the most dynamic, if not the most dynamically expressive phono preamps I've yet heard, particularly on the bottom," and that he found that the Phono II's "high-frequency performance was 'crystalline' without being edgy or glary. Transient performance was precise without accentuating leading-edge definition." We always knew these observations to be true, but to see them in print from such a true lover of analogue vindicates the work that has gone into this project.

However, Michael did find some faults: "its five blue LEDs are bright--too bright, particularly if the preamp is placed level with your head when you're seated in the listening chair." He also observed some faint background noises and he experienced a "whirring noise" that was associated with one of his cartridge/

turntable combinations.

The good news is-- we've solved these problems on current production models. The bright blue lights (as well as our other LEDs) have been tamed thanks to a four-step dimmer switch easily accessible on the bottom of the Phono II. The background noises were the result of pickup within the back panel circuit board and we have designed a new board that, as far as we have found, eliminates this issue. This board is being incorporated into all current production units, as well as retrofitting all previous units. We would welcome Michael taking the Phono II for another spin to confirm the effectiveness of these fixes.

Our goal has always been to produce components that add as little as possible of their own personality to the single path; and, of all the praises Michael had for our phono preamp, it was his closing thought that gratified us the most, "...if you don't like what you're hearing from the DSA Phono II, lay most of the blame on your cartridge or how it's been set up."

Finally, Michael is correct that "Mrs. Hurlburt" would love to see DSA reach the point of success where we could engage in, "....outsourcing the construction of the Phono II." However, "Mrs." Hurlburt, completed her studies for an M.D., holds a Ph.D. from McGill University, and is a retired research professor from Harvard Medical School. It is her appreciation, tolerance, and understanding of my life long audio passion that has made this journey possible. She will always be my perfect mate.

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