

COMMENT TO MF STABI M REVIEW

Editor,

Franc Kuzma and Elite AV Distribution would like to thank Michael Fremer for his excellent review of the Kuzma Stabi M and 14" 4Point tone arm. That this combo can compete head-to-head with other turntable and arm combinations that cost far more than the Stabi M and 14" 4Point, and still make such a great showing, is a testament to Kuzma's engineering prowess and deep understanding of the dynamics of LP playback.

One small error: though the 14" 4Point can play LP records with the dust cover raised, it cannot play with the cover closed, but will close when the arm is returned to its rest. Mr. Fremer did not discover this because he did not have enough room to use it.

Mr. Kuzma would like to point out that just lowering tracking distortion was not a key design consideration when designing the 14" 4Point. Rather, he believes that the longer arm has much less ever-changing anti-skating/bias force than a shorter arm as it traverses the side of an LP, allowing the totally stable sound presentation that Mr. Fremer described; the minute vibrations coming from the turntable or tone arm bearings are better damped, thus reaching the cartridge in smaller quantities via the longer arm tube.

Mr. Fremer also noted he could hear the taps on the plinth or stand clearly through his speakers. This is really a non-issue when listening to music in real-world settings; even at extremely elevated levels, this table/arm combo is immune to feed back, disturbance of the soundstage, or muddying of the bass. The triple-damped construction of the Stabi M is what allows the large, stable, and precisely presented soundstage (with that killer bass slam) that Mr. Fremer describes.

This is what the Stabi M is all about: listening to records on a playback system that remains completely unperturbed, regardless of material or level.

Oh, and one more thing. Mr. Fremer's notes correctly that with the Lyra Atlas cartridge, a transducer that is about as good as it gets in almost every aspect of record-playing, the overall sound can be a little on the drier side of full tonal saturation; he is also correct when he postulates that a Koetsu or Kiseki cartridge (both a little more on the

richer side of sonic presentation), would allow the system to exhibit a bit more overall bloom and ease, without losing any of the solidity, drive, or image specificity that are the hallmarks of this combination of turntable and tone arm. One can literally choose the “voice” of the combined system by using a variety of different cartridges. The arm’s detachable head shell that does not break the electrical integrity of the arm’s wiring allows this to be accomplished with relative ease and dispatch. It is kind of like bringing your own carefully chosen bottle of wine to a dinner where you know the menu intimately, to the point of making the whole experience the sum of the wine and the food and company, only here it is the combination of cartridges and records that reward the finicky audiophile.

Sincerely,

Scot Markwell, General Manager of Elite AV Distribution

Franc Kuzma of Kuzma Ltd.