



HARMONIX TU-812M VS TU-812MX VS DALBY D7 VINYL STABILISER ~ BY 7500MARTIN

This time I have the opportunity to compare three of the recent most expensive LP Clamps. I really have to thank Kingtiger, my predecessor, without his generosity, my earlier review on the TU-812MX might not be convincing as there would be no reference for my review. Now I add the Harmonix TU-812M and Dalby D7 Disc Stabiliser, I think everyone would be able to understand the strength of each of them!

Starting from Harmonix TU-812M, since the Shenmu LP Clamp and the Goldmund gold Clamp, I believed that it was the expensive LP Clamp which most audiophiles talking about recently! I was fortunate enough to own it for quite a long time. It has been seven years since it was launched into the market.



TU-812MX just arrived in Hong Kong for more than a week. Its shape is exactly the same as the TU-812M. The only difference was the metal part has changed from the glossy black to the natural metal. For the wood portion, the color of the TU-812MX is a lot darker than the old model TU-812M. The weight of the TU-812MX seem a little heavier. Some people may think that it just changed the cosmetic a little bit to claim it as a new replacement

model at higher price. Well, whether it is really the case or not, please see below decomposition.



Another new star is the Dalby D7 LP Stabiliser! I do not know much about this British brand, but its weight is almost three and a half pounds that have clearly declined all users of floating platter turntables! Its first class metal work made me want to own it without testing! Due to its weight, at the beginning, I was a bit worry if it would affect the spinning speed. Eventually, I confirmed that it was just a false alarm.



In order to be fair, I first put the Sunshine STS 1 metal turntable mat on top of my turntable

platter; the system is still the same with Brinkmann Balance + Rockport 6000 + Goldfinger Statement. I have to emphasize again that the following results are only based on my own system combination. Please pay attention that there may be variations on the results when using with other system combination.

Starting with Harmonix TU-812M, I picked up a George Lam Creation Collection album, the soundstage was deep and wide, the vocal of George Lam was deep far! For such performance in pop; in fact, I found nothing to be picky. I then replace it with the TU-812MX, and I expected there should not be much different in this ordinary local recording album! (I just tried to play it as to warm-up my ears), The vocal imaging was instantly pulled right in front of me. Although unlike the TU-812M so deep and far, but the kind of three-dimensional sense of touch were not as good as the TU-812MX. To compare with the TU-812MX, TU-812M slightly inclines to the mid & high frequencies, which also explained why TU-812M was good at creating a deep wide soundstage. In the interpretation of the music, the TU-812M was actually just like the shadow of Burmester equipment, and TU-812MX is relatively more focus in the mid and low frequencies. It also strives a bit stronger than the TU-812M. Simply speaking, the appearance of TU-812M and TU-812MX look the same, but the sound is absolutely nothing in the same orientation, just like the South & North Poles apart.



Then I replaced with the Dalby D7, my immediate first impression was "static" and felt very similar to the TU-812MX; the vocal was the same three-dimensional, but still

there were many differences between the two. Based on the weight of the Dalby D7, the mid low frequencies was also the strongest amongst the three, but the dispersion of the high-frequency was therefore slightly inferior to the TU-812M and TU-812MX. For example, listening to James Newton Howard and Friends album, for the electronic bass punchiness, Dalby D7, amongst the three, was the one played with most energy and the most fun, but talking about the low-frequency liveliness, the TU-812MX was absolutely a lot better! Of course, it really subject to what kind of music you choose for the reviews!

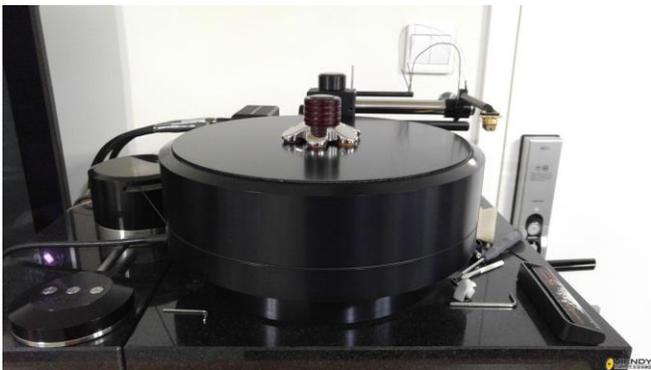
I then listened to my favorite assorted Classical album - Canon and Gigue Popular Classic, beginning with the organ music, with the TU-812M, the punchiness may be the lightest, but it is the most clarity reproduction of all. When it meets with those strong tone type of turntables, the TU-812M may be more interesting than the other two. Likewise, if you wish to strengthen a little more hi-fi sound and emphasize the sense of space, the TU-812M may also be stronger than the other two.



Later, I played the Dvorak - Symphonie No 9; after repeated comparison, the soundstage of Dalby was more forward, but her calm had made the whole stage to be more forceful, full of tension! Punchiness was cruel and fast enough, and the TU-812MX performance was ranged in between TU-812M and Dalby D7.



Finally, listening to the album, The Song My Mother Taught Me, with the Dalby D7 interpretation, the piano accompaniment was slightly overemphasized and forward, as if it aligned with the Violin! Again, comparing with the rest two Harmonix LP clamps, I preferred the TU-812MX which exhibited natural with proper proportion! The two instruments would not pour too much forward, and piano accompaniment slightly hidden behind the violin at its right hand side, and it would not be over-emphasized to grab the limelight of the violin.



So far, I think we all now have the basic concepts and understanding of the three LP clamps. However, please do not ask me which one is the best! Perhaps, the best definition is the one which best suits your music taste in your system combination! In fact, at such price range of LP clamps, it is simply so hard to describe with the word "poor"! Matching and tastes should be more important than everything.

After thinking for a long time what title should I used for this review, i.e. Battle for the LP Clamp King, they would be too tacky! Moreover, there is nothing to fight? I suddenly remembered an English proverb - Curiosity killed the cat. Therefore I used the title "Curiosity killed the cat"! Tell me who you ever thought the cat was, you or me!?

