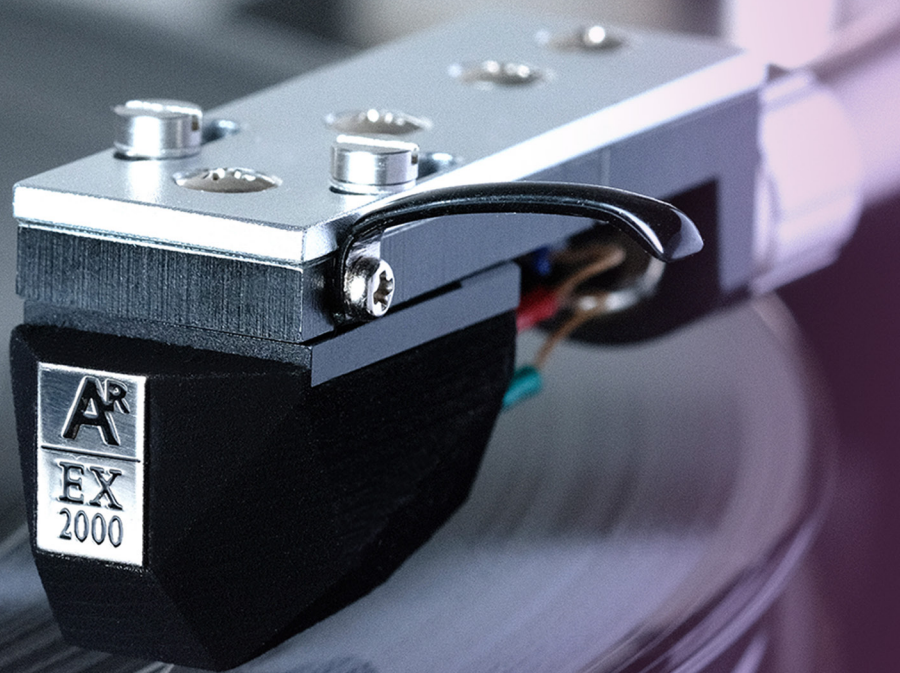


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ANALOG RELAX



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absolute sounds
ESTABLISHED 1978



Introduction

Absolute Sounds' raison d'être since its founding nearly 50 years ago is a mission to bring the finest components together for music lovers around the world. With Ten, its family of exclusive manufactures, Absolute Sounds celebrates, supports and enables the creators of limited production artisanal audio gems. The latest brand to join the fold is Analog Relax.

Deep understanding of the artisan crafts in Japan, augmented by decades of searching throughout the realms of that country's most dedicated practitioners, has equipped Absolute Sounds with the ability to find exceptional components worthy of an audience beyond its borders. Having extensively tested a multitude of both established and lesser-known brands over the years, Absolute Sounds has no peers when it comes to discovering such items. To our delight, Analog Relax erupted into view, like a volcano of style and precision. With matchless skill and unbridled devotion, Audio Relax is dedicated to creating handcrafted state-of-the-art moving-coil cartridges with a modern attitude, whilst still respecting and being faithful to the Japanese artisanal traditions.

Analog Relax was founded by Yasushi Yurugi, an avid record collector, musician, jazz fan and innovative cartridge designer. A keen saxophonist, Yurugi has a deep appreciation of that sax maestro, jazz legend Zoot Sims, so much so that he founded the Zoot Sims Fan Club. That kind of musical obsession made him want more, knowing the vinyl groove contained yet more heart and soul to be revealed. "I never doubt that records have the best sound quality for listening to music, and I live with a collection of several thousand records and eight turntables." This inspired him to create moving-coil cartridges which would exceed the capabilities of those available - a challenge he could not resist.

Yurugi says, "I am currently developing products that solve the difficulties associated with living in an analogue record milieu and delivering them to fans of analogue records around the world. Analog Relax cartridges are made with care by wonderful Japanese craftsmen. We not only pursue the opportunities afforded by different materials for improving our cartridges' performance, but give top priority to bringing joy to those who use them."

Analog Relax cartridges exist to elevate the pleasure of listening to vinyl. They transform the state of the art, leaving behind what were commonly considered the finest cartridges available. For those eager to hear LPs as they've never heard them before, Analog Relax provides not only the next step on the journey. They provide the destination.



EX300 MC

Transducer MC Stereo Phono Cartridge

Analog Relax is insistent about the use of wood for its cartridge bodies, employed in all their models including the entry-level EX300. The housing of the EX300 was carefully selected from solid walnut, which is the wood sometimes used for guitars for its tonal characteristics.

The body consists of a particular high-grade walnut which is often used for the neck, back and sides of a guitar, hewn from solid. By using natural beeswax for finishing, a deep colour unique to walnut is created, adding to the overall desirability of the EX300.

EX300 can reproduce all genres of music with equanimity, from jazz to orchestral, unplugged to amplified. Its personality is characterised by exceptional retrieval of detail and the conveying of power, notable especially for establishing a solid foundation in the mid to low frequency range.

The EX300 has adapted newly-developed "IF adhesive" technology for stronger integration of the stylus and cantilever for precise, tactile sound. It redefines the capabilities of moving-coil cartridges in its price category.

£2,698

Output: Voltage 0.5mv (1kHz)

Impedance: 15Ω

Stylus: Elliptical pure diamond with IF adhesive bonding

Cantilever: Aluminum

Coil material: 6N high purity copper

Body: Walnut with beeswax finish

Tracking force: 2.0g

Magnet: Neodymium multi magnet

Weight: 10.0g



EX500 MC

Transducer MC Stereo Phono Cartridge

Analog Relax looked to Romania for the body of the EX500, which is made of the finest hard maple, found primarily in that country. Just as the EX2000 pays homage to Stradivarius, so does the wood of the EX500 acknowledge the neck backboards of the finest violins which are fashioned from this maple.

Analog Relax insists on using only all-natural wood for the bodies of all their cartridges, even though resin or metal produce much greater yields and are more efficient. But they do not impart the natural sound Analog Relax demands. Each and every cell within the wood is surrounded by a cellulose wall. Air vibrates within these holes to create a purely organic sound. This is the reason wood always was and remains the main material used in stringed instruments to this very day. The sound obtained from the unique resonance of the body's hard maple will resonate throughout the listening space, gracing it with a refreshing, soul-enriching atmosphere.

For the stylus of the EX500, a hyper elliptic shape has been selected. It is polished more precisely than standard styli, the signals it traces being delivered to coils that are hand-wound with pure silver wire. The extreme precision of this combination will yield smiles impossible to suppress, thanks to the authenticity and realism of the sound stage spreading out before the listener.

£4,998

Output: Voltage 0.5mv (1kHz)

Impedance: 15Ω

Stylus: Special Ellipse Stylus Solid Diamond

Cantilever: Aluminum

Coil material: Pure Silver

Body: Romanian hard maple with beeswax finish

Tracking force: 2.0g

Magnet: Neodymium multi magnet

Weight: 10.0g



EX1000 MC

Transducer MC Stereo Phono Cartridge

Solid 2000-year-old Yakusugi cedar forms the body of the EX1000. An exceedingly rare tree, the Yakusugi cedar accumulates resin within its cells to prevent wear or degradation caused by frequent rain.

To complement the body's inherent resonance, beeswax is used for the surface finish. As a result, the colour of the body will change over time, but we believe this will only enhance your enjoyment of this product, which acquires a unique patina, as do other cherished artefacts.

Using this rare material in a cartridge body enables the creation of complex and, indeed, sensual sounds. Due to the scarcity of the wood, the EX1000 is certain to become difficult to produce in the future. At present, EX1000 production will be limited to quantities determined by the supplies of Yakusugi cedar that are available to Analog Relax.

Ruby is said to be the second hardest material after diamond. For the EX1000, Analog Relax have machined it for use as the cantilever. This gem transmits vibrations at high speeds, allowing it to read the information from the grooves with breathtaking rapidity. It excels in reproducing live instruments and human voices, creating a sensual sound free of any inner-groove distortion. It does not reproduce the scratching sound of old, original records, allowing the music lover to be immersed in sound without distraction. The stylus, too, enjoys greater resistance to wear, giving it a longer lifespan.

£10,998

Output: Voltage 0.5mv (1kHz)
Impedance: 15Ω
Stylus: Super Curve Line Contact Ver. 2
(Pure diamond)
Cantilever: Ruby
Coil material: High Purity 6N copper

Body: 2000 year old Yakusugi cedar with beeswax finish
Tracking force: 2.0g
Magnet: Neodymium multi magnet
Weight: About 9.0g



EX2000 MC

Transducer MC Stereo Phono Cartridge

Character defined by the finest 'spruce' from the South Tyrol region of Northern Italy is imbued in the Analog Relax EX2000. This storied region is where the material for the legendary Stradivarius stringed instruments is said to have been harvested. The EX2000 thus honours the greatest luthier of all time.

Its surface is coated with an ultra-fine powder allowing it to reproduce natural sound. A precision-machined solid diamond cantilever is used to transmit seamlessly the movement established in the record's grooves to the power generator, extracting high-resolution sound. Compared to other diamond cartridges, the cantilever in EX2000 has been cut slightly thicker to achieve more solidity in the sound with the added benefit of improved traceability at a higher level. The stylus is the 'Ver. 3' model, further evolution of the well-received 'SC stylus' used for the EX1000.

In the EX2000, the stylus has a number of multi-faceted cuts applied vertically, allowing it to reproduce sound with almost no inner distortion. The front and back of the stylus tip are cut with different curvatures, making it difficult to suffer the "crackling" peculiar to original records and older or worn pressings, enabling playback with an extremely high signal-to-noise ratio.

Cartridges with diamond cantilevers can be prone to extracting the maximum information but with a tense and edgy sound, which impacts on extended listening pleasure. The EX2000 delivers depth, range, and substance while retaining the full content of the groove.

£15,000

Output: Voltage 0.4mv (1kHz)

Impedance: 8Ω

Stylus: SC Stylus Ver.3 Special custom order
made solid diamond

Cantilever: Special nude diamond

Coil material: High Purity 6N copper

Body: Finest 'spruce' from the South Tyrol region of Northern Italy, Ultra-fine 'powder coating',

Magnet: Multiple neodymium magnet

Weight: About 9.0g



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