



# Kuzma Stabi R turntable

MARTIN COLLOMS ASSESSES A SERIOUS, COMPLETE VINYL RECORD PLAYER AT £25,000, COMBINING KUZMA'S MODULAR STABI R TURNTABLE WITH THE COMPANY'S OWN 4POINT 14 TONEARM AND CAR50 MOVING COIL CARTRIDGE

**Vinyl replay stalwart Franc Kuzma is a precision mechanical engineer specialising in high quality disc players. He has an abiding love of vinyl which he expresses in his pursuit of excellence in the design and build of numerous record replay components over several decades and over a wide range of price.**

Motor units, supports, tonearms and cartridges are present in some variety, leading to many possible permutations: potentially there are more than 40. While there are some super-exotic formulations – even one working in combination with a ‘zero vibration’ active noise-cancelled support, originally designed for precision medical imaging equipment. There are also base models such as the Stabi ‘S’, matched with the Stogi S unpivot tonearm (in 9- and 12in versions) and complete with a matching CAR20 moving coil cartridge, it forms a complete package priced at under £10,000.

The top turntable, the *XL AIR*, as you might have guessed, is an air bearing design, runs to some £52,000 plus arm(s) and cartridge(s) and boasts an all-up mass of 120kg. The platter alone weighs 44kg! From these heady heights consider that a top of the range Linn LP12 is in our headline £20k price range while the Naim Solstice combo is just a few thousand

less, so this issue’s Kuzma review rig is pretty well in the heart of the high quality, but not uber-high-priced, disc-player category. We recently covered another fine example in this price range, namely the Vertere SG-1, another complete player at about £25,000 (HIFICRITIC Jan-Mar ‘20).

One aspect of the suggested specification for the review immediately caught my attention: the inclusion of the 4Point 14 tonearm. I surmised that the number ‘14’ denoted the effective length in inches. Noting that the disc grooves are cut using a groove tangential, ‘parallel tracking’ arm, records should ideally be played back in the same way. While radial 9 inch/23cm tonearms are very common, and certainly effective when well set up for cartridge offset angle and overhang, so that tracing error and associated distortion are held respectably low, they are not as good as is possible. Self-evidently, the tracing of music modulations with parallel tracking