

VECTOR VTA MICROMETER

The Vector tonearm immediately reset the standard for tonearm performance when it began shipping in November 2001. No tonearm had ever shown the tracking ability of the Vector, which could track even the most difficult inner grooves of the most difficult records when fitted with any good moving coil cartridge.

The amazing performance of the Vector is due to the single-minded pursuit of performance in the Vector design process. All design efforts in the development of the Vector were based on attaining the ultimate level of performance. The vestigial fingerlift on the headshell and the cueing mechanism were the only items directed toward anything other than performance, and those items were only included after proving that they did not detract from performance in any way. In fact, the reason for the short fingerlift, as compared to the longer, thinner, curved-style fingerlifts too commonly seen, was to drive the resonant frequency of the fingerlift at least one full octave above the audio range.

The focused pursuit of performance dictated that the Vector be without a VTA (**V**ertical **T**racking **A**ngle) indicating mechanism. All such mechanisms on other tonearms introduce parts that resonate at audio frequencies with a resulting coloration of sound and tracking limitations. Most such mechanisms also introduce a secondary, parallel vibration path to the base of the tonearm or turntable, decreasing the effectiveness and directness of the vibrational path into the turntable. Secondary vibrational paths compromise the ability of the tonearm to respond to sudden musical transients at the critical leading edge and to reproduce a sudden end of a musical note or detail. The Vector tonearm channels all energy through the central, firmly gripped and non-resonant main mounting shaft.

VTA MICROMETER DEVELOPMENT

During the first two years of Vector production, designer Armando (A.J.) Conti devised various methods of determining VTA position without compromising sonic quality. The simplest method was chosen, which is now available as the **VTA Micrometer System**. The VTA micrometer determines the relative distance between the tonearm base and the tonearm subchassis. The system also contains a wide-range calibration feature which allows resetting of the “zero” position and recalibration over a wide range to accommodate a wide range of turntable platter heights.

VTA MICROMETER DETAILS

Please view the highly detailed “print resolution” image of the Vector tonearm on the Basis Audio website. Note the VTA Micrometer assembly at the rear of the tonearm. The VTA knob, for setting different VTA heights, is laser engraved scale running from “0” to “7” (eight increments).

In using the VTA Micrometer the listener first determines a neutral VTA setting (level armtube or other favorite position based on listening or experience with the particular cartridge). With the tonearm locked at this point the user notes the numerical setting, and can return to that “base setting” at any time after having tried other settings

VECTOR VTA SYSTEM ADVANTAGES

First, you will note from the above discussion that the Vector system is the only “zero-resettable” system in the industry. The wide-range adjustment feature is hidden inside the mechanism, yet is resettable in a matter of minutes using a single hex key. More importantly, after locking the tonearm in a given position the VTA knob may be turned 1/8 turn to lift the VTA Micrometer tip off the turntable surface. Totally disconnected from the turntable in this configuration, the full performance of the Vector without VTA system is preserved. The Vector

VTA Micrometer System is unique as the only VTA indicating system which does not impair tonearm performance in any way.

UPGRADE ON ANY VECTOR

The Vector VTA Micrometer may be added to any Vector ever produced. Some earlier Vectors may need to be returned to Basis for slight modification to accept the VTA Micrometer.