

BASIS

BASIS AUDIO, INC.

INSPIRATION TURNTABLE

USER'S GUIDE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Thank you, for selecting the **BASIS AUDIO *Inspiration*** turntable. As a devotee of the analog record medium, you possess highly refined listening tastes and demand a level of performance hitherto unattainable outside of the concert hall. Certain to enlighten, your **BASIS *Inspiration*** will engender a new level of appreciation for your valued record collection. It is an experience of not merely hearing the sound, but of being one with, and touched by, the music. The ebb and flow, the subtlety and fury of the symphony orchestra as sculpted by the maestro is conveyed to the listener with startling clarity and stunning realism.

This is the true musical experience ... Your experience ... The **BASIS** experience.

II. The BASIS Philosophy

Your **BASIS Inspiration** turntable is the end result of exhaustive research into those parameters affecting the quality of record playback. Today's audiophile is confronted with the arduous task of sorting out the myriad of manufacturer claims in support of their "solution" to one, or possibly two areas of deficiency in turntable design. This "piecemeal" approach to turntable design simply takes too much for granted, and invariably results in a product in which the user is forced to deal with those compromises deemed "acceptable" by the designer in order to obtain enhanced performance in one or two areas. The world is full of turntables with "sweet highs" and footfall problems, or "great bass" and a speed instability problem to match. Reviewers talk about "thin sounding" turntables with "incredible detail", not understanding that resonances, which are adding apparent detail, are also resulting in "hifi-type" thin sound. Rather than singling out specific areas of turntable design, we at **BASIS** chose to employ a "systems approach" for the **Inspiration** turntable. In this "systems approach" the turntable was broken down and optimized one subassembly at a time. In short, this means that no aspect of turntable design was taken for granted.

A case in point is the **BASIS** isolation system. It would have been easy to assume that a suspended subchassis is the ideal method of isolating the turntable from its environment. Rather, we at **BASIS** asked what type of suspension technique to use. Experimentation was conducted utilizing pneumatic, hydraulic, compressed spring, hanging spring, three point, four point suspensions, and every conceivable method of spring damping, including no damping, before choosing the *fluid damped, hanging spring suspension* system as the only method of isolation suitable for inclusion in our design. The system approach employed by **BASIS** did not stop with the suspension, but was expanded to encompass each and every aspect of our product. The platter, base, subchassis, bearing, motor, drive belt, et al, share the same fanatical attention to detail that characterizes the **BASIS Inspiration** as a whole.

The platter is another case in point. Our extensive listening to a wide verity of music on our top of the line Work of Art turntable convinced us that a very thick acrylic platter with no internal weights and a vacuum hold down system provided an advantage over any other combination of materials, geometry, and clamping. We listened to our competitors tables in our listening lab, and could not find any combination, with or without mats, clamps, layered damping, damping rings, or coatings that came close to the sonic clarity and lack of coloration exhibited by the Work of Art platter. So the **BASIS Inspiration** includes that platter.

You have purchased a superior product, a product whose design principles are not shrouded by mystique, but rather are elucidated by solid, sensible engineering practices, and executed with extreme care and precision in fabrication and assembly.

Thank you for taking the time to read the above. We ask that you please now familiarize yourself with the content of the pages that follow so that you may begin to use and enjoy your new turntable.

III. Assembly Instructions for the *Inspiration* Turntable

Your new BASIS *Inspiration* turntable has been carefully and thoughtfully designed to allow its full performance potential to be obtained by anyone, without the need for special knowledge or tools. The only requirements are that the purchaser familiarizes him/herself with the unique features of the *Inspiration* outlined in these pages and that he/she provides ample space in which to assemble the unit. You may also find it helpful to review this material more than just once. You are now just a few short minutes away from hearing your records played on the finest turntable in the world!

Your new *Inspiration* turntable is packed in multiple cartons. You should save the shipping bags and foam material for future use, should you ever wish to transport your turntable. Open Box 1 first and read these instructions thoroughly.

<u>BOX</u>	<u>WT(lbs)</u>	<u>WT(kgs)</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
1	6	3	Inspiration Turntable Accessories with instructions
2	16	7	Inspiration Turntable Platter
3	11	5	Inspiration Turntable Motor Assembly
4	48	22	Inspiration Turntable
5	16	7	Synchro-Wave Power Supply with instructions
6	4	2	Vacuum accessories with instructions
7	9	4	Vacuum control box
8	16	7	Vacuum pump box
9	11	5	SuperArm 9 Tonearm with instructions

If the cartons show signs of rough handling, dropping, or other external damage, save all packing material and immediately file a damage claim with your carrier. Call your audio dealer or Basis Audio for help in assessing any damage.

Carefully open all the cartons and look over the Packing Checklists to familiarize yourself with the various items, but do not remove them, yet. They are best protected from scratches and damage by the packing foam.

Unpacking the Turntable

- 1) Select the Inspiration Turntable box containing the turntable base and subchassis assembly. This assembly is quite heavy and the poly wrapping can be slippery, so use caution when lifting and carrying it. Since it is fit tightly in its carton, you will have to remove all foam padding, to free the assembly so it can be lifted out of the carton.

- 2) Remove the tape which is holding the vacuum hose and ground wire. Then remove the poly wrap and foam wrap from the base/subchassis assembly.

NOTE: DO NOT USE ANY TYPE OF CUTTING TOOL TO REMOVE THE POLY WRAPPER — Your BASIS turntable has a highly polished finish that would be destroyed if contacted by a sharp object.

- 3) There are many pieces of foam blocking and foam sheets holding the subchassis immobile in the base assembly. When removing these items, be careful not to drag them against the polished acrylic parts, because they can leave scratches. The thin white foam sheets will not scratch the acrylic, so they are the only material in direct contact with polished surfaces. At this point you may want to put on the white cotton gloves that are packed in the accessories carton, so you will not put finger prints on the polished surfaces.
- 4) Remove the foam blocks from between the two pieces of clear acrylic, then, remove all the pieces of foam sheet from around the assembly. You will want to save all this shipping material for use in the future should you wish to transport your turntable.

NOTE: At this point the 2-inch thick (5 cm.) subchassis is free floating and can move around. While there are protective bumpers above and below it on the four cornerposts, it should be supported when turning the assembly on its ends, and not be allowed to bang into other parts.

- 5) Turn the turntable assembly up on its front edge on a properly cushioned surface, such as a foam pad covered by the large sheet of foam wrapping. Unscrew (by hand) the silver "foot" located underneath each of the four (4) cornerposts, and set them aside for the moment

Turntable Assembly

- 1) Turn the assembly back on its bottom side, remembering to support the subchassis.
- 2) Identify the four (4) suspension cartridges, located inside of the accessory carton. These suspension cartridges fit inside the cornerposts and lift and support the subchassis. They are suspended from the top of the cornerpost by two dowel pins. These suspension cartridges contain very thick silicone damping fluid. To avoid having the fluid spill out of the cartridges during assembly and set-up, Basis Audio recommends that you stand the four suspension cartridges upright (threaded screw end up) overnight before installing them. Each suspension cartridge is calibrated for a specific corner of the turntable, and they are marked (RR for Right Rear, LF for Left Front, RF and LR) for that location. By way of orientation, the tonearm mounts at the RR corner.

NOTE: One end of these cartridges has a threaded metal rod protruding from a silver machined end cap. Located 180° apart around the periphery of this end cap are two (2) small holes which accept the dowel pins.

- 3) Identify that package containing ten (10) .125" (OD) steel dowel pins (1/8 inch or 3 mm OD). These pins will later be installed into the holes in the suspension cartridges identified in step #2. **Please do not install the steel pins at this time.** Also observe that each of the four (4) aluminum cornerposts mounted to the base/subchassis assembly have slots at the top for the pins to slide up and down in during cartridge installation/removal.
- 4) Unpack the suspension cartridge installation tool. It resembles a "T-Bar". This tool is also packed in the accessory box. You will note that this tool has a threaded bore at one end to screw onto the threaded end of the suspension cartridge.
- 5) Place the base/subchassis assembly on a sturdy bench/table with padding, and allow one of the cornerposts to overhang the edge of the table so that you have access to the bottom of the cornerpost.
- 6) Obtain the suspension cartridge specifically calibrated and marked for that corner, and while holding it upright (threaded rod pointing upward) visually locate the two (2) .125" holes identified in step #2. Insert this cartridge upward through the bottom of the cornerpost assembly while keeping the cartridge holes and cornerpost slots aligned. It will be necessary to "**wiggle**" both the suspension cartridge and subchassis assembly to permit complete insertion of the cartridge. With your finger, hold the cartridge securely from the bottom and proceed to the next step.
- 7) Attach the suspension cartridge installation tool identified in step #4 by inserting the tool into the TOP of the cornerpost assembly and threading the threaded rod into the threaded bore of the tool 3 or 4 turns.
- 8) Firmly grasp the "T-Bar" and with one hand pull up on the cartridge assembly until the top of the cartridge appears through the top of the cornerpost. It will be necessary to lift this assembly JUST HIGH ENOUGH to allow for insertion of the two (2) .125" steel pins identified in step #3. Insert the two (2) steel dowel pins into their respective holes in the cartridge assembly at this time. **Take care not to drop the pin when you are installing it, but if the pin does fall into the cartridge it will not affect operation.** If this should happen 2 extra pins are supplied with each turntable. You may now lower the suspension cartridge back down into the cornerpost assembly. It may be necessary to twist the cartridge assembly SLIGHTLY to allow the pins to engage the slots and facilitate retraction of the cartridge.

NOTE: While performing step #8, avoid pulling the suspension cartridge higher than is necessary to allow for insertion of the steel pins. If more than 45 degrees of rotation of the cartridge assembly is needed to allow engagement of the pins into the cornerpost slots lower the cartridge back into the cornerpost until it is not restrained from turning by the weight of the subchassis. Turn the cartridge so that a closer alignment is achieved. Failure to align the pins and corner post slots can result in serious damage to the spring contained in the suspension cartridge assembly.

- 9) Repeat the procedure outlined in steps #5 through #8 for the remaining three (3) cornerposts. Be sure to match the cartridge marking to the corner location.
- 10) After installing the cartridge assemblies, **DO NOT** allow the turntable to be placed upside down or tilted on its side as the special damping fluid contained in the cartridges WILL spill out.
- 11) When installation of the suspension cartridges has been completed you may reinstall the threaded silver feet that were identified and removed in Unpacking step #5.

NOTE: It would be advisable at this time to wash your hands to remove any traces of the non-toxic damping fluid so as to prevent contamination of the highly polished surfaces of the *Inspiration*. Should "fingerprinting" occur, it is easily cleaned up with a non-abrasive detergent (i.e.: dish soap or window cleaner).

- 12) Remove the "bearing protector", which is two pieces of cardboard between the moving part of the bearing and the subchassis. This is a vacuum bearing with VACUUM SEALS ON THE SPINDLE, read the tag on the spindle, then remove only the tag.
- 13) Unpack the platter from its box. **Note:** The bottom of the platter is marked with an arrow pointing to the center. This arrow is intended to point at the notch in the periphery of the platter support portion of the bearing. This orientation of the platter and bearing gives the intended factory alignment of these two precise parts. When lowering the platter take great care to place it SLOWLY AND GENTLY on the bearing to prevent damage to the thrust surfaces. With the *Inspiration* this is of more concern than with other turntables due to the weight of the platter. The subchassis should now be suspended from the cornerposts, and no longer contacting them.
- 14) Select the four (4) suspension adjuster knobs. These are silver knobs, with a female thread on the underside. Also, select the four (4) white Teflon washers. Place one (1) Teflon washer on each of the cornerposts and screw on the suspension adjuster knobs. Work slowly at first to ensure that the Teflon washer is centered under each of the suspension caps. Initially you will only want to turn the adjuster knobs enough to contact the Teflon washer and cornerpost assembly.
- 15) Upon completing step #14, rotate each adjuster knob clockwise to raise each corner of the subchassis to a position that is centered in the cut-outs of the cornerpost assembly when the turntable is viewed from the sides. We have found that one-third to one-half of the way up in the opening is satisfactory. You will find that the accessory box contains a plastic bag, which holds a number of extra o-rings. These rings may be used in the event that one corner of the subchassis still sits too low after turning the silver adjuster knob to the full clockwise position. This may happen due to normal spring tolerances. Remove the spring cartridge in question and notice the ridge that the subchassis rests on when the cartridge is installed. You may slip as many o-rings as necessary over the top of the cartridge onto the

ridge to place the subchassis at the proper height. THE USE OF THESE O-RINGS WILL NOT ALTER THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TURNTABLE. THE NEED TO USE ONE OR MORE DOES NOT INDICATE ANY DEFECT OR AGING OF THE SUSPENSION CARTRIDGE.

- 16) At this time, you may carefully move the turntable to its final location. The vacuum hose and ground wire can be coiled on top of the platter for this move. DO NOT MOUNT THE MOTOR (step 17) until the turntable is in its final location.

NOTE: The fully assembled *Inspiration* is HEAVY! It may be advisable to enlist the aid of a helper for this operation.

DO NOT TIP THE TURNTABLE WHILE IT IS BEING MOVED!

- 17) Unpack the motor and place it on the turntable base at the rear. There are three rubber isolators on the bottom of the motor, which should be aligned so that they sit down into the three counter-bores on the base. Wiggle the motor to make sure the isolators are in the counter-bores and the pulley is exactly behind the platter.
- 18) Remove the elastic drive belt from the packaging and install it so that the "shiny side" faces inward (contacts the platter). Install the belt on the pulley, then use your thumb and forefinger to keep it on the drive pulley. Rotate the platter SLOWLY by hand one or two full revolutions until the belt centers itself on both the pulley and platter. This procedure need never be repeated unless the belt is removed for some reason at a later time. The belt used in the *Inspiration* turntable (once installed) is self-centering and has absolutely no tendency to jump off.
- 19) Unpack the cable support rod, and install it in the bore on the base, near the motor and behind the tonearm location. There is a set screw with brass tip already in place to hold the rod. Use the 3/32 inch hex wrench supplied with your *Inspiration* to adjust this set screw. This rod will support the SuperArm 9 tonearm cable block, and completely isolate the subchassis from any external noise and vibration picked up by the cable.
- 20) Unpack the ***Synchro-Wave Power Supply*** and refer to its manual for connecting and operating the motor.
- 21) Unpack the Vacuum components and refer to the Vacuum manual for set-up and operation of the Vacuum system.
- 22) Install the SuperArm 9 tonearm in accordance with its manual and Vector set-up DVD. There is a set screw with brass tip already present in the subchassis to lock the Vertical Tracking Angle and tonearm support orientation. Use the 3/32 inch hex wrench supplied with your *Inspiration* to adjust this set screw.

IV. FINAL ADJUSTMENT

- 1) With your ***Inspiration*** placed in its final location, once again verify that the four (4) corners of the subchassis are approximately at equal spacing in the cornerpost cut-outs. Place a small bubble level on the center area of the platter and "rough-level" the turntable using the adjustable silver feet located underneath each of the cornerpost assemblies.
- 2) Verify that the belt has not become uncentered during any adjustments.
- 3) Perform the final leveling operation by rotating the suspension adjuster knobs on top of the cornerposts.

CLOCKWISE — Raises subchassis

COUNTERCLOCKWISE — Lowers subchassis

- 4) The ground wire attached to the bearing of your turntable, serves to ground the bearing/platter system to help bleed static electricity from these components. The wire may be connected to the ground of your phono stage, a true ground, or the ground of any other piece of equipment. As is the case with grounding on complex systems, some experimentation may be required to achieve the best results.

V. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question:

"What are the sonic effects of raising or lowering the subchassis above or below the center position?"

Answer:

There are no sonic differences that can be attributed to the position of the subchassis. Rotating the adjustment knobs located on each cornerpost simply serves as a simple and effective means of "leveling" the subchassis. Spring tension and hence "tuning" is not affected. We have specified a recommended position for the subchassis about centered or a little lower in the cornerpost opening to allow for maximum vertical travel of the subchassis.

Question:

"There was an oily residue on the suspension cartridges. Are they leaking?"

Answer:

A slight residue on the cartridges is normal and results from minute amounts of damping fluid seeping around the machined end cap near the top of the cartridge during handling/ shipping. This slight seepage does not indicate a defective cartridge nor does it imply reduced effectiveness of your **BASIS** suspension. Simply wipe off any residue with a paper towel and continue assembling your *Inspiration*.

Question:

*"My old turntable sounded better when placed on a flimsy stand. What type of stand does **BASIS** recommend for use with the *Inspiration* turntable?"*

Answer:

Your old turntable possessed an inadequate isolation system thus making it susceptible to the varying amounts of vibrational energy transferred to the table via different stands. The effectiveness of the **BASIS** isolation system is so great that any energy transferred to the table through the stand is completely dissipated in the suspension. Therefore, **BASIS** recommends that the *Inspiration* be placed wherever convenient to do so, and that the supporting structure be capable of holding the weight of the turntable. (approx. 90 lbs.)

Question:

*"I'd like to take my **Inspiration** to a friend's house. Can I just put it into the car and go?"*

Answer:

No. **BASIS** recommends that ANY time the **Inspiration** is to be transported in a vehicle that the tonearm/cartridge, motor assembly, and platter assembly be removed and that the suspension cartridges also be removed, in that order. When that is done, the shipping foam removed in unpacking, should be reinstalled. Your **Inspiration** is now ready for short distance transportation. Reassembly at the destination will be quick and easy and you will have prevented the possibility of fluid spillage or bearing damage. Remember to handle your **Inspiration** carefully while moving it to preserve its fine finish and alignment of your tonearm/cartridge (if installed). Your **BASIS Inspiration** represents a large investment and any damage resulting from improper handling/shipping is NOT COVERED BY WARRANTY!

Question:

*"But I just want to move my **Inspiration** into the next room. Must I disassemble the suspension and remove the platter?"*

Answer:

In this situation, disassembly is not required, however the motor assembly MUST be removed to avoid expensive damage. The tonearm/cartridge should be protected or removed, and the platter can be removed to make the turntable lighter. Remember that the **Inspiration** is very heavy — you may want a helper, and AVOID excessive "jogging" (bouncing) of the suspension. Also to be avoided is tipping of the turntable that could allow spillage of the special damping fluid.

We at **BASIS AUDIO, INC.** hope that the above information has proven helpful in answering your questions. Of course if you have a question not covered in the above, feel free to contact your dealer for assistance.

VI. BASIS AUDIO, INC. LIMITED TEN (10) YEAR WARRANTY

BASIS AUDIO, INC. warrants the *Inspiration* to be free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of ten years from date of purchase.

Purchaser must submit to **BASIS** within 30 days of purchase or installation the completed, signed, and dated warranty registration form for this warranty to become valid. Failure to provide the warranty registration form to **BASIS** within the 30 day period following purchase shall render this limited warranty void and inapplicable. This information is for warranty purposes only, and will only be seen by Basis Audio. We never sell, trade or share customer information

This warranty is subject to the following conditions: This warranty applies only to the **original purchaser/owner**. Warranty is void and not applicable if this product is or has been operated or handled in any way not consistent with the guidelines set forth in the owner's manual.

Warranty is void and inapplicable if the product has been abused/damaged as a result of negligence, or damaged in shipping/handling.

Warranty is void and inapplicable if this product has been modified, repaired or otherwise tampered with by anyone other than **BASIS** or an authorized service representative.

Should this product fail to meet the above warranty, purchaser assumes obligations to re-package said unit and return it to the dealer, **BASIS AUDIO, INC.** or designated service representative with full insurance value at his/her sole expense.

Where the above conditions have been complied with, **BASIS AUDIO, INC.** shall without charges for parts and/or labor repair the defect and return the unit to purchaser **FREIGHT COLLECT**.

This warranty is extended to the first and all subsequent owners of said product for a period not to exceed ten years from the date of first sale provided each subsequent owner has purchased the turntable through a **BASIS** dealer and notifies **BASIS AUDIO** within 30 days of purchasing the turntable.

Implied warranties related to the above are limited to the duration of this warranty.

Warranty is not extended to cover ANY incidental or consequential costs or damages to the purchaser(s).

Certain states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the aforementioned limitations and exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights, which may vary from state to state.