



User's Guide to the BASIS "*Debut Gold Standard*" Turntable

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I. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for selecting the **BASIS "Debut Gold Standard"** 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 "Debut Gold Standard"** will inspire 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 an uncanny sense of realism.

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

II. The BASIS Philosophy

Your **BASIS "Debut Gold Standard"** 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. Rather than singling out specific areas of turntable design, we at **BASIS** chose to employ a "systems approach" for the **"Debut Gold Standard"** 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 (Patent Pending). It would have been easy to assume that the suspended subchassis was 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, armboard, base, subchassis, bearing, motor, power supply, et al, share the same fanatical attention to detail that characterizes the **BASIS "Debut Gold Standard"** as a whole.

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.

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. Instructions for assembly of your new BASIS *"Debut Gold Standard"* Turntable

Your new BASIS *"Debut Gold Standard"* 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 familiarize him/herself with the unique features of the *"Debut Gold Standard"* outlined in these pages, and that he/she provide 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!

Unpacking the Turntable

- 1) Carefully open both boxes. Select the box containing the turntable base and subchassis assemblies.
- 2) By hand, remove the poly wrapping material 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) Identify the two (2) hex-head bolts located underneath the BASE assembly and remove them using either an adjustable or socket wrench. You will want to save these bolts for use in the future should you wish to transport your turntable.

Turntable Assembly

- 1) Unscrew (by hand) the black "foot" located underneath each of the four (4) corner-posts. Having removed the four feet, you may set them aside for the moment.
- 2) Identify the four (4) suspension cartridges. They are located inside of the box containing the platter. Note that one end of these cartridges has a threaded metal rod protruding from a black machined end cap. Located 180° apart around the periphery of this end cap are two (2) small holes.
- 3) Identify that package containing ten (10) .125" (o.d.) steel pins. 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 that box containing the platter. You will note that this tool has a tapped bore at one end.
- 5) Place the base/subchassis assembly on a sturdy bench/table and allow one of the cornerposts to overhang the edge of the table.

- 6) Obtain one (1) of the suspension cartridges, 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. This is done by inserting the tool into the TOP of the cornerpost assembly and engaging the threaded rod into the threaded bore of the tool. It is not necessary to thread these two devices together fully. Typically, 3 or 4 turns of the "T-Bar" should suffice.
- 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 high enough to allow for insertion of the two (2) .125" steel pins identified in step #3. Insert the two (2) steel pins into their respective holes in the cartridge assembly at this time. Take care not to drop the pin when you are installing it. If the pin does fall it may drop into the suspension cartridge. The pin will rest on the bottom of the cartridge and will not affect the spring or the turntable performance in any way. 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. Also, if more than 45 degrees of rotation of the cartridge assembly is needed to allow engagement of the pins into the cornerpost slots, we strongly urge the user to repeat steps #6 and #7 so that a closer alignment is achieved. Failure to do so could 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.
- 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 black feet that were identified and subsequently removed in step #2.

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 "**Debut Gold Standard**". Should "fingerprinting" occur, it is easily cleaned up with a non-abrasive detergent (ie: dish soap or window cleaner).

- 12) Remove the packing material around the bearing assembly.
- 13) Unpack the platter from the accessory box. Note that the bottom of the platter is marked with an arrow pointing to the center. This arrow is 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 "**Debut Gold Standard**" this is of more concern than with other turntables due to the extreme weight of the platter.

- 14) Select the rectangular armboard assembly and carefully unwrap (by hand).
- 15) Note the three (3) pins which locate the armboard in the subchassis cut-out. Install the armboard by carefully lowering it into the cut-out. There are no bolts to hold the armboard to the subchassis. The weight of the armboard acting on the small area of each shouldered locating pin yields less resonance than if the armboard was bolted down as in some other products. To ensure that the armboard is properly seated on all three pins, press simultaneously on the center of the front and rear of the top surface of the armboard after final positioning of the turntable.
- 16) Select the four (4) suspension caps. These are the black and gold disks with the female thread on the underside. Also, select the four (4) white Teflon washers.
- 17) Place one (1) Teflon washer on each of the cornerposts and screw on the suspension caps. Work slowly at first to ensure that the Teflon washer is centered under each of the suspension caps. Initially you will only want to tighten the suspension caps enough to contact the Teflon washer and cornerpost assembly.
- 18) Upon completing step #17, rotate the suspension caps clockwise to raise each corner of the subchassis to a position that is just below "center" in the cut-outs of the cornerpost assembly when the turntable is viewed from the sides. We have found that one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the way up 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 gold adjuster knob to the full clockwise position. This may happen due to normal spring tolerances or due to the use of an abnormally heavy tonearm. Remove the spring cartridge in question and notice the ridge that the subchassis rests on when the cartridge is installed. This ridge should have one o-ring placed on it from the factory. 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.
- 19) Remove the elastic drive belt from the packaging and install it so that the "dull side" faces inward (contacts the platter). After installing the belt, 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 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 "**Debut Gold Standard**" turntable (once installed) is self-centering and has absolutely no tendency to jump off.
- 20) At this time, you may move the turntable to its final location.

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

REMEMBER NOT TO TIP THE TURNTABLE WHILE IT IS BEING MOVED!

IV. FINAL ADJUSTMENT

- 1) With your "**Debut Gold Standard**" placed in its final location, once again verify that the four (4) corners of the subchassis are approximately of equal position in the cornerpost cut-outs. Place a small bubble level on the platter and "rough-level" the turntable using the adjustable black feet located underneath each of the cornerpost assemblies.
- 2) Plug the power supply into an A.C. outlet.
- 3) Move the on/off switch on the left side of the "**Debut Gold Standard**" to the "on" position.
- 4) After verifying that the belt has not become uncentered during the move operation directed in step #20 of the assembly instructions, you may now unwrap the crescent shaped acrylic pulley cover and install it by snapping it down on the mounting posts on the subchassis near the pulley.
- 5) Install tonearm in accordance with tonearm manufacturer's guidelines. (see note concerning installation of tonearms)
- 6) Perform final leveling operation by rotating the suspension caps on top of the cornerposts.

CLOCKWISE — Raises subchassis
COUNTERCLOCKWISE — Lowers subchassis

- 7) To operate the turntable at 45 RPM, it is necessary to remove the pulley by unscrewing the socket head screw on the top of the pulley. The required hex wrench is included in the accessory box. Install the larger pulley in place of the 33 RPM pulley. When changing pulleys, be sure to align the black mark on the bottom of the pulley with the mark on the motor shaft.

V. TONEARM MOUNTING

Please refer to your tonearm owner's manual regarding specific mounting instructions.

BASIS AUDIO, INC. urges the purchaser to obtain from his/her dealer a pre-drilled tonearm mounting board. If your turntable was supplied with a "blank" (undrilled) mounting board we suggest that your dealer perform any drilling operations that are required. Your dealer has been instructed in the proper technique for drilling the thick, dense acrylic/lead armboard.

If the user still wishes to perform his/her own drilling, we offer the following suggestions:

- Obtain and wear EYE PROTECTION. (Safety glasses, etc.)
- Use sharp, high strength drill bits. (Dull bits do not cut properly and generate excessive heat resulting in seizure and breakage of the bit)
- Mark the area to be drilled and check your measurements to be absolutely certain they are correct. Inaccurate positioning of your tonearm will degrade system performance.
- When certain you have properly located the area to be drilled, you may start drilling.
- Use a LOW RPM setting on your drill, and use a LOW FEED RATE. The bit should be withdrawn frequently to clear itself of particles and to prevent overheating/seizure of the bit. Do not attempt to drill through the armboard in one quick pass as it will not work. We suggest using a light oil on the drill bit.
- Work SLOWLY, DELIBERATELY, ACCURATELY.
- Good Luck.

- VI. The following information is provided in response to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding operation of the **BASIS "Debut Gold Standard"** turntable.

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 (step #18 of the assembly instructions) 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 **"Debut Gold Standard."**

Question:

*"My old turntable sounded better when placed on a flimsy stand. What type of stand does **BASIS** recommend for use with the **"Debut Gold Standard"** 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 **"Debut Gold Standard"** 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 **"Debut Gold Standard"** to a friend's house. Can I just put it into the car and go?"*

Answer:

No. **BASIS** recommends that ANY time the **"Debut Gold Standard"** is to be transported in a vehicle that the platter assembly be removed and that the suspension cartridges also be removed, in that order. When that is done, the two (2) silver shipping bolts (removed in step #3 of the instructions for unpacking) should be reinstalled. Your **"Debut Gold Standard"** 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 **"Debut Gold Standard"** carefully while moving it to preserve its fine finish and alignment of your tonearm/cartridge (if installed). Your **BASIS "Debut Gold Standard"** 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 **"Debut Gold Standard"** into the next room. Must I disassemble the suspension and remove the platter?"*

Answer:

In this situation, disassembly is NOT required. Remember that the **"Debut Gold Standard"** is 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.

**VII. BASIS AUDIO, INC.
LIMITED THREE (3) YEAR WARRANTY**

BASIS AUDIO, INC. warrants the "*Debut Gold Standard*" to be free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of three (3) years from date of purchase.

Purchaser must submit to **BASIS** within 10 days of purchase 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 10 (ten) day period following purchase shall render this limited warranty void and inapplicable.

This warranty is subject to the following conditions: 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 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 three (3) years from the date of first sale.

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 an 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 vary from state to state.