



User's Guide to the BASIS "*Ovation*" Turntable

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I. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your purchase of the **BASIS "Ovation"** Turntable. You have shown that you are capable of discerning the musical realism of which analog playback is capable. Regardless of the demonstration facilities at which you evaluated the **BASIS "Ovation"** turntable, we at **BASIS** are confident that you will be delightfully amazed at the level of musicality that this fine instrument brings into your listening room. This product is intended to allow you to relax and experience the emotion of the musical event. We sincerely hope that the **"Ovation"**, the result of many hours of our research and effort, brings you decades of musical fulfillment.

II. The BASIS Philosophy

Your **BASIS "Ovation"** Turntable is the result of two years of effort directed at applying the design principles of the **BASIS "Debut Gold Standard"** turntable to a more affordable product. The **"Debut Gold Standard"**, the first **BASIS** product, has been accepted as the reference turntable by a large number of manufacturers of perfectionist audio equipment. This product has built an unchallenged reputation for both superb sound and supreme reliability.

The **"Debut Gold Standard"** and **"Ovation"** are the culmination of a "systems approach" to design where all aspects of turntable performance were broken down and analyzed separately. After each sub-system was optimized, the separate systems were brought together to form the final product. With this approach the consumer can be assured of receiving a complete product that will perform equally in all listening environments.

The thorough approach to design at **BASIS** has begotten many unique features including our four point hanging fluid damped suspension, multidamped platter and armboard, three point armboard mount, as well as numerous other less obvious items. This painstaking completeness of design is only part of what sets **BASIS** apart from the alleged competition. We match this with equal enthusiasm for execution resulting in the highest level of fit, finish, quality control, and perceived value available in turntables.

Your **BASIS** turntable is a superior product that is based on sound, accepted principles of engineering and physics and executed with the highest precision. Please read the remainder of this manual so that you may get the most from your investment.

III. Instructions for assembly of your new BASIS "Ovation" Turntable

Your new **BASIS "Ovation"** 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 **"Ovation"** 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 five socket head cap screws on the underside of the turntable that bolt the black acrylic subchassis to the black aluminum sub-frame. Remove all five of these screws and save them along with the five spacers that fall free when the screws are removed. These will be necessary should you wish to transport your turntable in the future. Be sure to insert a soft cloth between the top of the subchassis and the undersides of the suspension support arms before unscrewing these screws. This will prevent damage to the subchassis top when it drops free from the sub-frame.

Turntable Assembly

- 1) 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 machined end cap. Located 180° apart around the periphery of this end cap are two (2) small holes.
- 2) 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 #1. Please do not install the steel pins at this time. Also observe that there is a hole at the end of each aluminum support arm on the top side of the turntable. Note that each hole has two (2) slots for the pins to slide up and down in after the suspension cartridge has been installed. You will see that these four holes that go through the aluminum support arms line up with four larger holes in the feet of the aluminum sub-frame (the lower part of the turntable.) It is through these four large holes in the sub-frame that the suspension cartridges will be installed in the upward direction.
- 3) Unpack the suspension cartridge installation tool. This tool is also packed in that box containing the platter. It resembles a "T-Bar." You will note that this tool has a tapped bore at one end.

- 4) Place the base/subchassis assembly on a sturdy bench/table and allow one of the corners to overhang the edge of the table.
- 5) 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 #1. Insert this cartridge upward through the bottom of the sub-frame while keeping the cartridge holes and support arm slots aligned. It will be necessary to wiggle both the suspension cartridge and subchassis assembly to permit complete insertion of the cartridge. The cartridge will go through the bottom of the sub-frame, through the subchassis, and will align with the hole in the support arm.
- 6) Attach the suspension cartridge installation tool identified in step #3. This is done by inserting the tool into the TOP of the hole in the support arm 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.
- 7) 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 support arm. It will be necessary to lift this assembly high enough to allow for insertion of the two (2) .125" steel pins identified in step #2. 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 support arm. It may be necessary to twist the cartridge assembly SLIGHTLY to allow the pins to engage the slots.

NOTE

While performing step #7, 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 support arm slots, we strongly urge the user to repeat steps #5 and #6 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.

- 8) Repeat the procedures outlined in steps #4 through #7 for the remaining three (3) corners.
- 9) 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.

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

- 10) Remove the packing material around the bearing assembly.
- 11) By hand, remove the wrapper from the platter. Note that there is an arrow on the bottom of the platter that points to the center. Also note that on the bearing shaft there is a black line. When the platter is placed on the bearing the arrow should line up with the line. This gives the intended factory fit of these parts. When lowering the platter onto the bearing be careful to gently mate the two parts. This will prevent damage to the thrust surfaces.

- 12) Select the rectangular armboard assembly and carefully unwrap (by hand).
- 13) 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. When the set up of the turntable is complete, to ensure that the armboard is correctly seated on the three pins push downward on the center of the front and rear top surface.
- 14) Select the four (4) suspension caps. These are the silver disks with the two holes in the top. Select the cap tool which has two (2) pegs protruding from the bottom which mate with the holes in the suspension caps. You will use this tool to rotate the caps. Also, select the four (4) white Teflon washers. Place one washer on the bottom of each cap.
- 15) Screw on the suspension caps. It is not unusual to need to pull up on the bottom of the suspension cartridge in order to engage the threads of the knob. 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 support arm assembly.
- 16) Upon completing step #15, rotate the suspension caps clockwise to raise each corner of the subchassis to a position that places the top of the subchassis approximately 1/2 inch below the underside of the support arms. This distance is not critical and will not affect how the turntable sounds. Note that there is a bag in the accessory box which contains extra rubber o-rings. In the event that the subchassis hangs too low even with the caps in the fully clockwise position then the suspension cartridge(s) in the corner(s) involved may be removed. There is a ridge on each cartridge that the subchassis rests on when the cartridge is installed. There should be one o-ring on this ridge as the turntable comes from the factory. Extra o-rings may be stretched over the top of the cartridge and placed on this ridge as necessary to cause the subchassis to hang at the correct height. **THE USE OF THESE O-RINGS IN NO WAY AFFECTS TURNTABLE PERFORMANCE AND DOES NOT INDICATE ANY AGING OR DEFECT IN THE SPRINGS.** This simply reflects normal tolerances in spring preload and variations in weight of different tonearms.
- 17) At this time, you may move the turntable to its final location.
NOTE: The fully assembled "**Ovation**" 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!

- 18) Locate the motor assembly that is packed in the accessory box. Also locate the four rubber feet in the same box. One end of each foot has a threaded rod protruding from it. Screw these feet into the bottom of the motor box. Now the motor box may be placed into the cut-out in the rear of the turntable subchassis. The rubber feet may be adjusted so that the top of the motor box is roughly flush with the top of the subchassis.
- 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 "**Ovation**" turntable (once installed) is self-centering and has absolutely no tendency to jump off.

- 20) To operate the "**Ovation**" at 45 RPM it is necessary to remove the pulley by unscrewing the socket head screw on the top of the pulley using the supplied hex wrench. Located in the accessory box is a larger pulley for 45 RPM. Install this in place of the removed 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.

IV. TONE-ARM MOUNTING

Please refer to your tone-arm owner's manual regarding specific mounting instructions.

BASIS AUDIO, INC. urges the purchaser to obtain from his/her dealer a pre-drilled tone-arm 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 tone-arm 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 arm-board 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.

- V. The following information is provided in response to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding operation of the **BASIS "Ovation"** turntable.

Questions:

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

Answer:

There are no sonic differences that can be attributed to the position of the subchassis. Rotating the adjustment knobs 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 #16 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 **"Ovation"**.

Questions:

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

Answer:

Your old turntable possessed an inadequate isolation system thus making it susceptible to 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 **"Ovation"** be placed wherever convenient to do so, and that the supporting structure be capable of holding the weight of the turntable. (approx. 70 lbs.)

Questions:

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

Answer:

No. **BASIS** recommends that ANY time the **"Ovation"** 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 shipping bolts (removed in step #3 of the instructions for unpacking) should be reinstalled. Your **"Ovation"** 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 **"Ovation"** carefully while moving it to preserve its fine finish and alignment of your tone-arm/cartridge (if installed). Your **BASIS "Ovation"** 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 **"Ovation"** into the next room. Must I disassemble the suspension and remove the platter?"*

Answer:

In this situation, disassembly is NOT required. Remember that the **"Ovation"** 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.

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

BASIS AUDIO, INC. warrants this product 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.