



DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE GROOVE

As a dedicated vinyl listener you need a record washing machine – word of this should have gotten around by now. At this point it should be about a very special variant of this species



Remaining Time
00:44





The Disco-Antistat Ultrasonic is a well-designed device that takes up significantly less space than conventional record washing machines

For many years, the Knosti Disco-Antistat was the only affordable entry into the world of record cleaning. No wonder – that was a long time before the relevant specialists discovered the market for themselves with more or less fully automated and mechanized luxury equipment and offered equipment at corresponding prices. In fact, nowadays it's no problem at all to get a record completely clean and dry with a single press of a button, both sides at once. You have to accept – in most cases – a significant noise level and a not incon-

siderable investment. With the first Knosti it was and is all a bit different. It essentially consists of a plastic container to be filled with washing liquid, into which the disc to be cleaned is hung. A set of built-in brushes mechanically remove contaminants while the disc is rotated by hand. The washing liquid ensures that the impurities are dissolved. When the panel is deemed clean, it is placed in a drying rack until the cleaning agent has evaporated. This has delivered decent results for decades, but of course the process still leaves room for

improvement in terms of effectiveness and comfort. That's why the manufacturer based in Burgheim, Upper Bavaria, added a key feature to its machine some time ago that is supposed to ensure noticeably better washing results: an ultrasonic cleaner. An ultrasonic transducer causes the cleaning medium to vibrate at high frequencies. This creates tiny so-called cavitation bubbles in the liquid, which when they collapse creates a negative pressure that tears dirt particles from neighboring surfaces. With the right dimensions, the process is completely harmless to the record and very effective. During the cleaning process with the Disco Antistat Ultrasonic, several things happen at the same time: An electric motor

rotates the record, which is immersed in the cleaning medium as precisely as possible up to the exit groove. The goat hair brushes, already familiar from the original Knosti, ensure mechanical cleaning of the surface, while the liquid, which is made to oscillate using ultrasound, intensifies the cleaning process even further. During the process, the liquid is pumped through a filter that catches loose dirt particles. The cleaning process takes between one and two minutes, the value can be set with two buttons on the front of the device. In addition, there are two more buttons: The one on the far right turns the device on or off, but beware: you have to press it for around five seconds before the device shows a reac-

Teammates

- **Turntable:**
- TechDAS Air Force III / Reed 3p / DS Audio DS-003

- **Phono preamplifier:**
- DIY

- **Line preamplifier:**
- NEM PRA-5

- **Active Crossover:**
- Urei 5325

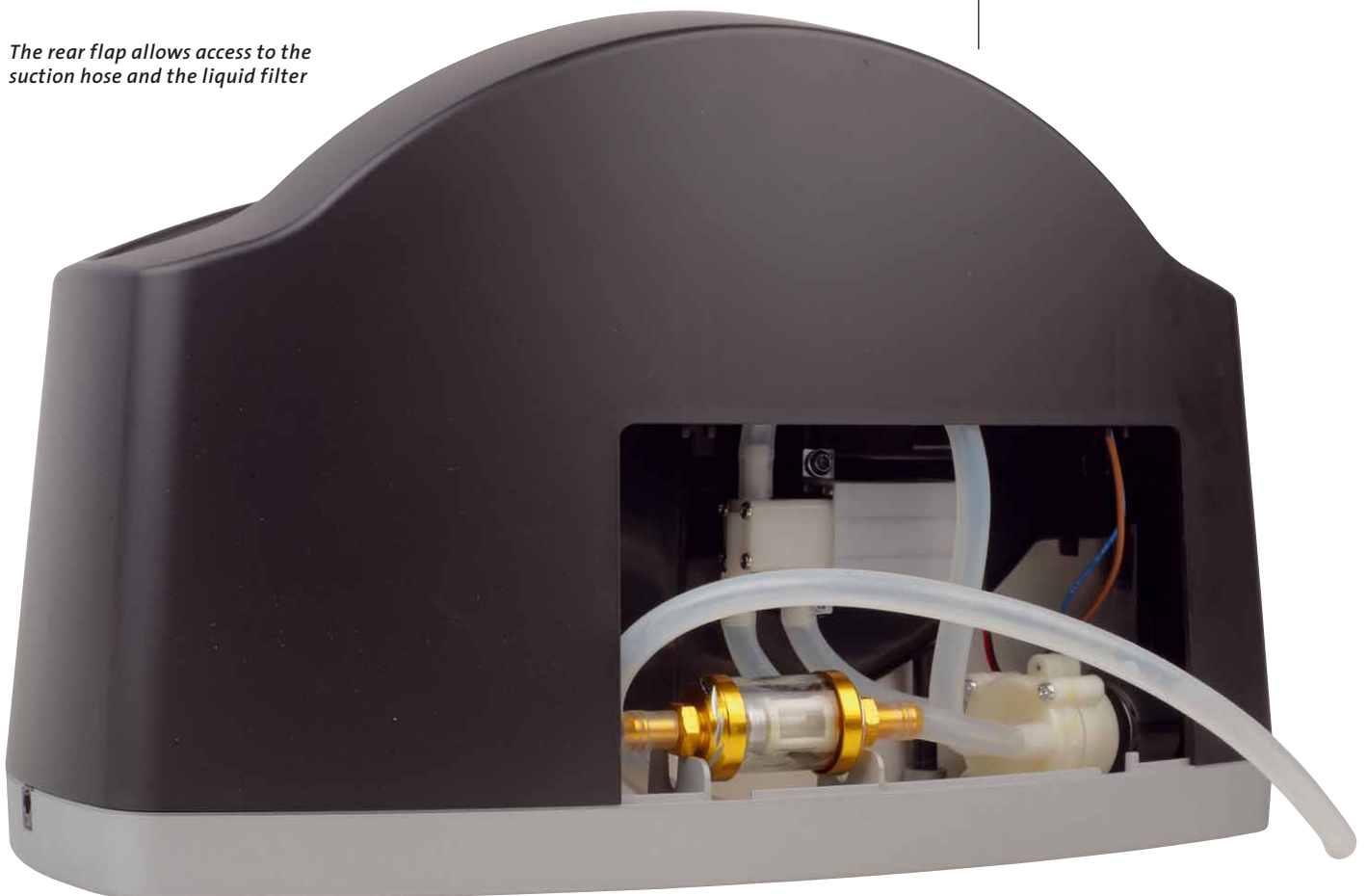
- **Power Amplifiers:**
- Manley Mahi
- Yamaha P-2200

- **Speakers:**
- JBL 4355

Competitors

- **Record cleaning machine:**
- Clearaudio Double Matrix Professional Sonic

The rear flap allows access to the suction hose and the liquid filter



The two components of the cleaning agent and a mixing bottle are included in the scope of delivery



tion. The last control element in the bunch is used to remove the cleaning liquid. It shouldn't remain in the device after use, because then it would get dirty due to environmental influences on the one hand and simply evaporate on the other. What you must never do is empty the device by tipping it out. There is a risk that liquid could get inside the device. Rather, it is necessary to open the rear service flap, remove the drain hose and hang it in a suitable container. Then you have to press the pump button and the pumping process begins. This is also controlled by a timer and runs for so long that it is guaranteed that no significant amount of liquid remains in the device. You can then wipe the last residue of the cleaning medium out of the device with the enclosed foam brush. The procedure is not without a certain amount of effort and inevitably leads to the realization

The two brushes provide a basic cleaning of the record

that setting up and dismantling the device to wash a single disc is only worthwhile in exceptional cases – it makes sense to collect a few more discs for washing.

A mixture of highly distilled water and the cleaning concentrate Disco-Antistat Ultraclean specially developed for this application is used as the cleaning medium. A mixing bottle is included with the device, with which both components can be easily mixed in the correct ratio. The bottle also serves to store the liquid when the machine is not in use. The multi-part clamping device with which the records to be washed are hung in the device also deserves attention. A two-shell, sealed construction protects the record label from the cleaning fluid, and an integrated puck allows singles with a large center hole to be accommodated. Inserting the record in the machine

with the holder screwed on is extremely easy: hook it in and turn it clockwise very slightly, then the lock engages. Taking it out is just as simple: A small anti-clockwise rotation releases the lock and you can remove the disc. And how does it all work in practice? Set up the device horizontally, connect the plug-in power supply and connect to the mains, fill in the washing liquid to just below the maximum level mark, screw the record and holder together and insert them into the device, switch on the device. The washing process runs completely automatically, a row of ten LEDs serves as a progress indicator. The washing process itself is pleasantly quiet, the ultrasonic generation makes considerably less noise than the cleaning devices that work according to the same process that I know otherwise. When the one or two minutes are up, the

The display provides information about the most important parameters of the washing process



freshly washed record goes into the drying stand provided. Within a few minutes, the last remnants of the liquid drained away. This doesn't work completely without residue. If you like, you can help a little with a microfiber cloth at the „drip point“. The only thing that would make the Disco-Antistat Ultrasonic even better is a suction device, as we know it from conventional record washing machines. Without a doubt, however, this would make the construction considerably more complex and expensive. However, the washing results with the ul-

trasonic machine are beyond any doubt. The device is ready to deal with everyday deposits within a minute, it solves most problems with heavily soiled flea market discs within two minutes to your complete satisfaction. It also brings records that were previously played wet back into top form: Two two-minute runs can even handle wet playback liquid that has dried up for decades. In terms of sound, the procedure is immediately noticeable, even with new records: It is always amazing how much sound-damaging dirt is stuck in the groove even on brand-new records. Your ears will thank you for using the Disco-Antistat Ultrasonic with increased dynamics and a noticeably reduced background noise level. Of course I tried to compare the effectiveness of the new Knosti Disco-Antistat Ultrasonic with that of a modern conventional record washing machine. For this purpose I cleaned a few records washed with it with Clearaudio's Double Matrix Professional Sonic afterwards, but I could hardly find any additional improvement. Incidentally, the same applies if you carry out the procedure the other way around, meaning: prewash with the Clearaudio and then try the Knosti. From which one can conclude that both devices deliver a washing result that can practically no longer be improved.

Holger Barske



The freshly washed records wait in the drying rack for the cleaning agent residue to evaporate

Knosti Disco-Antistat Ultrasonic



- Price per pair 1,250 Euro
- Distribution Knosti GmbH, Burgheim, Germany
- Phone +49 8432 94870
- Internet www.knosti.de
- Warranty 2 years
- Dimensions (W x H x D) 360 x 235 x 180 mm
- Weight approx. 4 kg



Knosti
Disco-Antistat
Ultrasonic

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» With the Disco-Antistat Ultrasonic, Knosti leaves the field of inexpensive entry-level solutions for record washing and supplies a mature professional solution that can deal with any type of dirt.