

## What is the Technics Service?

I am often asked what you do when you service a turntable.

The Technics SL1200 turntable is a very robust unit hence why DJ's all around the world sees it as the standard, even though this is the case they still need a little TLC for them to perform to the standard of the DJ

I am often asked to change i.e.: "just the rca cables" I rarely do this as I have a set routine that I go through so I never miss a problem that you might have. With my service I will pick up any faults you might not know exist. After 19 years of servicing turntables for the night club industry and the home DJ I know every problem/ fault that the Technics turntable suffers with and will always gladly give the answer to the problem you might be having even if you want to try and fix yourself. I often help people via email all over the world, I only think is fair, I cannot service decks in Spain for instance. On my website I give a PDF with the main faults so you know where to look if you want to. With my service I have found ways to combat the problems often found when they go wrong.

**Fuses** I always replace and include slow blow fuses on every service; I have found that differences in voltage can blow the fuses. Though our power supply is rated at 230-240 volts 50Hz I have had readings of up to 246 volts and spikes of over 250 volts read on a true rms multimeter, this can blow the fuse, if you have no power it's not much good. Technics Turntables are double insulated (No Earth) so I pay attention to the power cable look for any damage if found this will be replaced with new lead and molded plug. \$5 extra or molded piggy back plug \$7.

**Spindle drag** the centre spindle must be lubricated, oil of superior quality, and without clogging properties is required. I have fallen in love with such oil used by audiophiles around the world Once turntable lubricant has been designed for this purpose. the reason it's important that once off the quartz lock "green pitch light off" your relying on a variable resistor for speed control this wears and changes in time but as you normally use 2 turntables they tend to wear together and gather the same amount of dust, with the spindle drag if the turntable is at a different angle or not level this can create a different amount of drag making mixing a whole lot harder. I found a great test for this. Start up the turntable on 45 rpm and turn the power knob off (not the start/stop button) pick a point on the platter and count how many revolutions the platter goes round before it stops its usually around 4.5 revolutions, when this is retested and the spindle has been lubricated and leveled it's possible to get 8.5 revolutions, this shows less drag and resistance. I also check the platter for stability, no rocking action when you finger is holding the record.

- **The arm** the Technics arm should be one of the most important parts of the turntable from the rca connects to the stylus, jumping out the groove when spinning the record back to find the mix point can be annoying and can make a simple beat mix a nightmare, with every service I always change the RCA cables even if they're ok, the constant plugging and unplugging can tend to get damaged. I supply New OFC high resolution, low loss signal cables, *99.99% pure copper, double shielded with gold molded RCA connections and earth wire*, these are always blue in color and included in the price of the service. The earth wire can be pre-earthed inside, if requested so that the earth wire does not require attachment to the mixer.

**Bearings pivot** the pivot bearings are a source of problems and should always be checked especially if the turntable is road cased on transported, transporting with the counter weight should not be done it's the most common source of damage to the arm causing skipping at a certain point in the record and why I devised a way of changing the bearing set rather than the whole arm.

**Gold contact pins** in the arm where the head shell plugs in can also give problems, if you're using Serato or any time coded software it's important that this connection is perfect these are always cleaned and checked, if they require replacement I can supply new gold pins for the arm at a cost of \$34, no buying complete arms. There's never no extra labour charge for any parts fitted.

**Pitch fader** the pitch fader is removed and cleaned of all dust and grime and reset to factory settings, under certain circumstances this will be replaced if to worn or suffers erratic operation. Some DJs like to have the centre click on the pitch removed "like the mk5", if you require this let me know and will make the change for you.

**Pop up lamp** (target light) has always being one of the things that blows, I found the biggest problem is the voltage to the lamp is 20 volt the constant pushing and popping up can cut in to the wires and blow the fuse, I replace the lamp and install a fusible resistor so if short ensures the fusible resistor blows rather the main fuse on the turntable. I also put the slow upward movement back in the fitting (inertia) instead of the horrible thud that comes with lots of use. \$9 extra for the lamp but no extra labour cost.

Every service come with a full clean and platter refurbish, special cleaners and protectors are used in the process lubricant used on the arm, pivot screws removed cleaned and reset. Here are some before and after pictures of turntables that have been in for service.

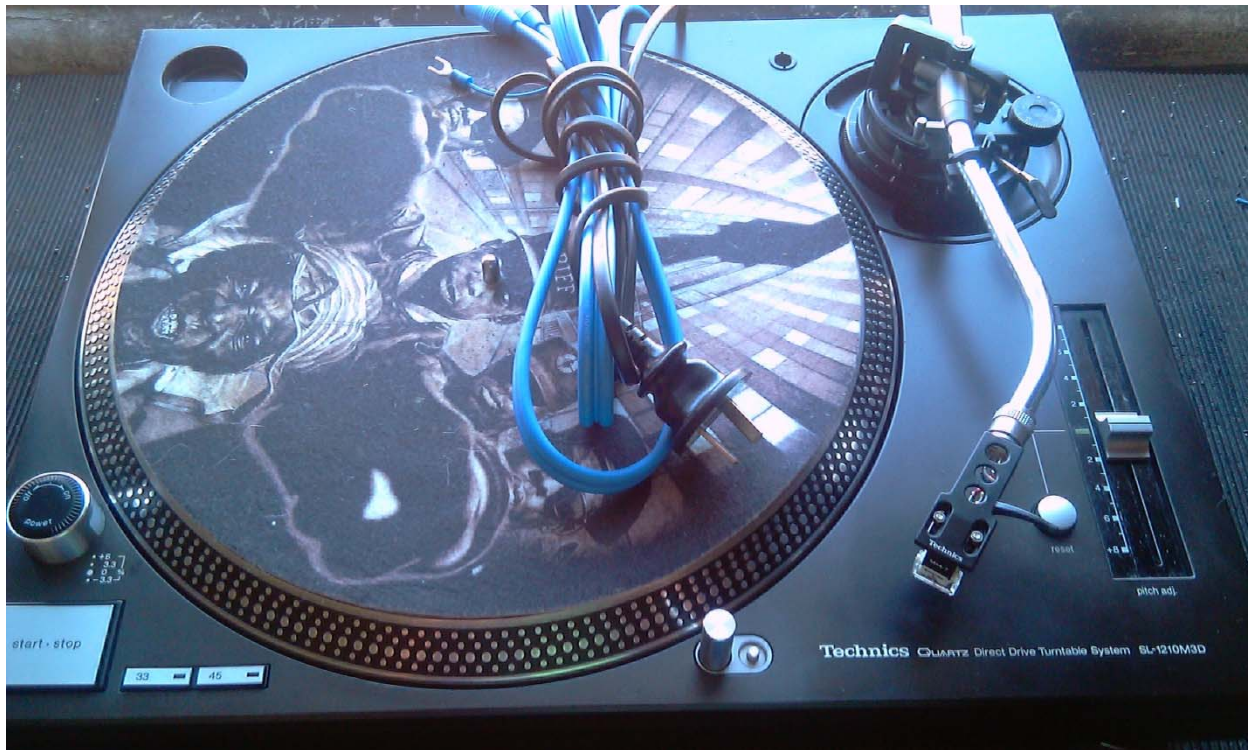
#### BEFORE:



#### AFTER:



Strobe Leds will be changed if there dim \$9 will be charged for the parts but no extra labour charge. You can also request different colored Leds. Full set which includes 33/45 / Strobe / Pitch / and Target \$18, colors include: UV - White- Blue- Green - Yellow – Red or any combination.



I hope this gives you some idea what a service consists of, this only covers a fraction of the service. Please look though the website for other important tasks that are undertaken in the service.

A standard service is \$99.00 inclusive of GST.

I enjoy my job and take pride in what I do, I never advertise my services and rely solely on word of mouth. *In the last 19 years, I have serviced turntables and DJ equipment for most hire companies in Sydney and a range of night clubs & DJ's, including: THE WORLD BAR- BUMP PRODUCTIONS - BESPOKE AUDIO - CLUB 77 – THE TUNNEL - DIG DEEP PROMOTIONS - DJ WAREHOUSE - DOUGLAS FABIAN PRODUCTIONS - FLINDERS HOTEL - HOME NIGHT CLUB - HUGOS LOUNGE - IMPRESSION DIS - LIGHTING 32 – LIGHTSOUNDS - LORD ROBERTS HOTEL - NEW MOSMAN HOTEL - RECLESS REPUBLIC - SPECIAL AGENT V - THE GAFF NIGHT CLUB - THE LAUNDRY – UTS SYDNEY - SAPPHIRE LOUNGE - ABSOLUTE INFINITY - BLACKBIRD CAFÉ - MINISTRY OF SOUND - GOODGOD SYDNEY - RED EYE RECORDS - NEW BRIGHTON HOTEL – LIPPSINC - HAPPY HOCKERS - BONDI FM -THE SPICE CELLAR - SOHO BAR - EASTERN HOTEL - IMPERIAL HOTEL - AUDIOVISUAL 360 - GAS AUDIO SERVICES - 2 RRR RADIO - LIGHTSOUNDS - THE BUCKET LIST – NIGHTWORKS AUDIO – BARRENJOEY HOUSE – TOTAL CONCEPT- PRODUCTIONS – GRAFTONS – PLUS MANY DJ'S AND MORE .....* I also have a fast turnaround no long waits if you drop to me before

10am I can give you the same day service no matter what is wrong with the deck, but booking is essential. Drop off 8am to 8pm 7 days but please contact us to confirm.

Contact details are:

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Address: 4/45 Doncaster Avenue, Kensington 2033, directions can be found by Google (deckdoctor) I am sure if you decide to have your turntable serviced with me, you won't be disappointed.

Kevin (*DJ's Deckdoctor* ☺)