

Top-grade Product

Van den Hul's well-known DDT - II now introduces itself as "Special" with innovations. Its sharp stylus has remained.

Stereo 6/2001 (Translation from German)



The hi-fi municipality nowadays notices modifications and developments in the phono cartridge sector incidentally at most. 25 years ago that was still completely different. The CD was "pie in the sky" and the record was our best sounding musical source. Then some sensation was caused when the dutchman van den Hul presented his sharp cut styli. These ought to be able to still trace the finest modulations, which rounder needles are unable to register any longer, this especially in the inner grooves where there is much less space for the information than at the outer radius. Their extremely tight edge roundness however caused heated discussions among manufacturers as well as fans whether such a thing was feasible without damaging the

record.

In the beginning the dutchman fixed his tips only to existing systems, like nowadays car freaks have their engine electronics tuned for increased power. Soon however, also complete phono cartridges were available under the van den Hul label. And the DDT, which meanwhile exists 20 years, was one of the first. At that time it was the people's high-end cartridge. Since then its price has been constant around 1200 German marks, wherefore, in the course of time, it actually clearly has reduced in price.

Same as before a diamond with a so-called VDH-1 shape is fixed to the boron cantilever. Its specification means that the diamond edge contacts each groove wall at a "width" of only three thousandth of a millimetre. The former controversy over possible damages to records meanwhile has died down. These only occurred with alignment errors. Correctly aligned the DDT - II Special is satisfied with an uncritical 15 milli-Newton tracking force.

The name DDT stands for the audiophile virtues **D**epth, **D**etail and **T**imbre. In particular the "Special" version should be able fulfil the claim to know the fields of fine detail, resolution and homogeneity inside out. In comparison to the old DDT - II a thicker front pole and a small additional magnet are put into action, which are to increase the rendition of detail and the output voltage.

The DDT - II Special gets along with arms whose moving mass ranges between 8 and 12 gram, which applies to most today's models. The recommended load values and other technical parameters lie in the usual range, any problems therefore are not to be expected.

Who listens to the DDT - II Special is immediately taken by its fresh and lively character. It lets the music sprightly sparkle from the loudspeakers and gives the reproduction an attractive agility. Does the Van den Hul because of its sharp diamond now even resolve better than the competition? Not really, because the competitors also don't use blunt styli. It is right that, up to the lead-out groove, the DDT - II Special delivers a neatly arranged and in itself very well structured representation of the musical happening. Nothing becomes indistinct, every musician and every singer has his firmly defined place.

The Dutch cartridge doesn't have particular preferences: Violin concerts have lustre and rock concerts have the necessary drive. Therefore the current DDT is still as valuable as it has always been. And in order to remain so, van den Hul offers a free extra service. After 200 hours of play time the system can be returned to the master who checks it and readjusts it if necessary. We think also that is first-class!

Van den Hul carried the stylus sharpness to extremes: only three thousandth of a millimetre

VAN DEN HUL DDT - II SPECIAL

Price: See Advisory Retail Pricelist on van den Hul website

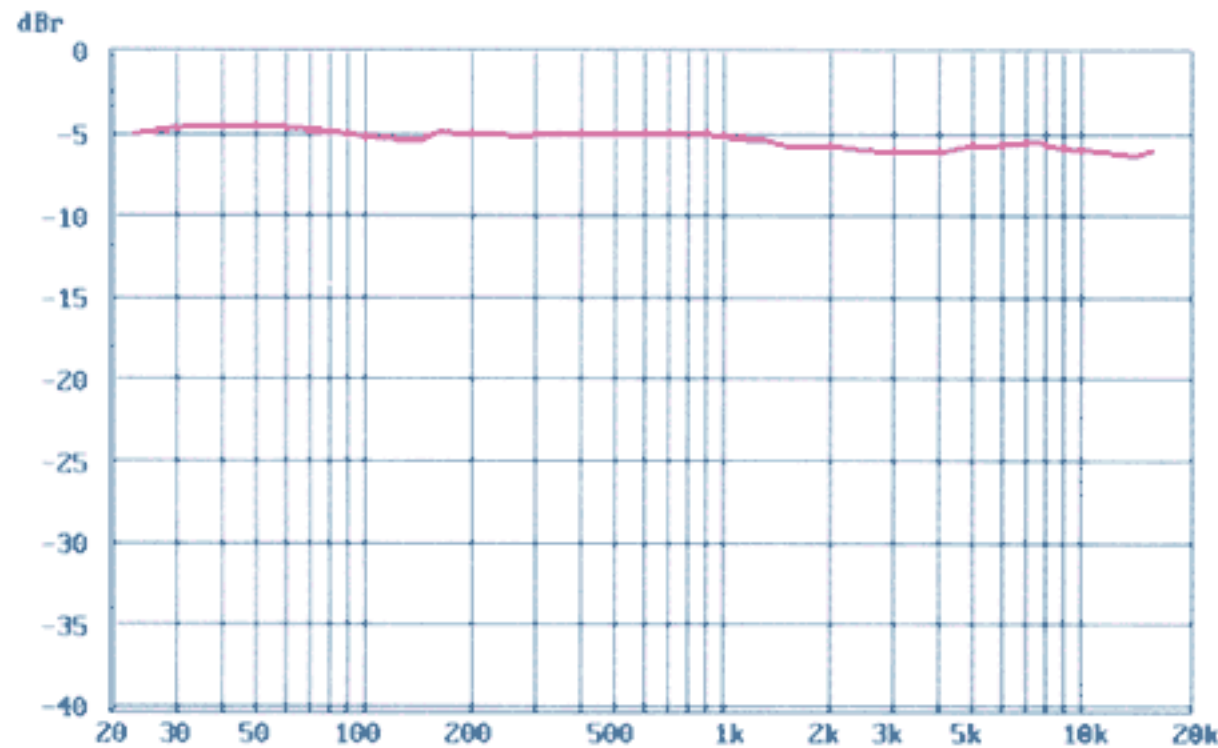
Type: Moving coil

Warranty: 1 year

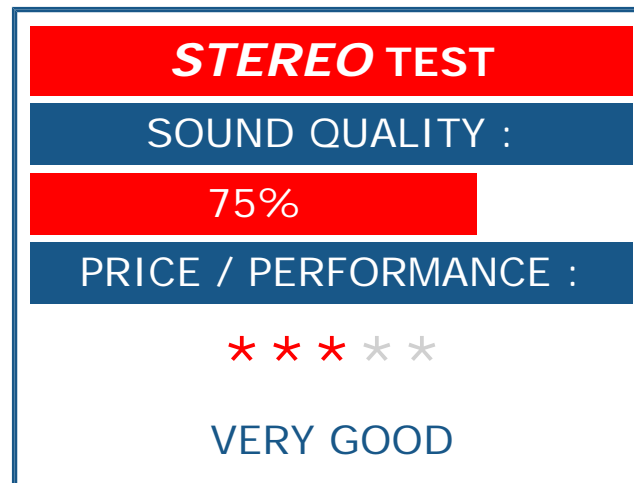
In its current version van den Hul's legendary DDT system can catch up with any newcomer. A fresh, dynamic and natural sound goes together with problem-free handling.

LABORATORY RESULTS

Frequency Response Van den Hul DDT - II Special



The DDT - II Special's very linear frequency response produces evidence of its acoustic well-balancedness. The output voltage of 0.6 millivolts (5.5 cm/sec.) is perfectly sufficient for most phono pre-amplifiers.



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