

Technics SL-1200MK2

Technics SL-1200MK2 DJ Turntable Instruction Manual

Model: SL-1200MK2

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Technics SL-1200MK2 is a professional direct-drive turntable system designed for reliable performance. Its construction features a die-cast aluminum body and a heavy rubber base, engineered to absorb unwanted vibrations that could interfere with sound quality. The ultra-low-speed motor and high torque enable quick start-ups (0.7 seconds) and stops. The turntable includes quartz-locked pitch adjustments, offering a 16 percent (+/-8) range for precise speed control. The classic Technics Direct-Drive system integrates the platter directly into the motor, minimizing parts and ensuring consistent, accurate speeds. This design has provided fast start-up times and responsive operation for over thirty years, with a wow & flutter of 0.01% WRMS and a rumble of -78dB.



Figure 1: Technics SL-1200MK2 DJ Turntable with its clear dust cover in place.

Key Features

- **Quartz Direct-Drive:** Ensures precise and stable platter rotation speed.
- **Sliding Pitch Control with Strobe:** Allows for accurate and adjustable playback speed.
- **Detachable Headshell:** Facilitates easy cartridge installation and replacement.
- **Standard-Mount Cartridge Compatibility:** Designed to accept a wide range of standard phono cartridges.
- **Professional and DJ Applications:** Built for durability and performance in demanding environments.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read all safety warnings and instructions carefully before operating the Technics SL-1200MK2 turntable. Keep this manual for future reference. To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not remove the cover or back. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel only. Do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture. Do not use this apparatus near water. Clean only with a dry cloth. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

3. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Upon unpacking your Technics SL-1200MK2, ensure all components are present:

- Technics SL-1200MK2 Turntable Unit

- Platter
- Slipmat
- Dust Cover
- Detachable Headshell
- Counterweight
- Auxiliary Weight (if included)
- 45 RPM Adapter
- Power Cord
- Audio Cables (RCA type)
- Ground Wire
- Instruction Manual (this document)

4. SETUP GUIDE

1. **Placement:** Place the turntable on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and strong vibrations. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit.
2. **Platter Installation:** Carefully place the platter onto the spindle. Ensure it sits flush and rotates freely.
3. **Slipmat Placement:** Place the included slipmat on top of the platter.
4. **Headshell and Cartridge Installation:**
 - Attach your preferred standard-mount phono cartridge to the detachable headshell.
 - Connect the small color-coded wires from the headshell to the corresponding pins on the cartridge.
 - Insert the headshell into the front end of the tonearm and twist the locking ring clockwise until it is secure.
5. **Counterweight Adjustment:**
 - Slide the counterweight onto the rear of the tonearm.
 - Adjust the counterweight until the tonearm is balanced and floats horizontally.
 - Set the tracking force according to your cartridge manufacturer's specifications by rotating the numbered ring on the counterweight.
6. **Anti-Skate Adjustment:** Set the anti-skate dial to match the tracking force.
7. **Connecting to an Amplifier:**
 - Connect the RCA audio cables from the turntable's output to the PHONO input of your amplifier or mixer.
 - Connect the ground wire from the turntable to the ground terminal on your amplifier or mixer to prevent hum.
8. **Power Connection:** Plug the power cord into the turntable and then into a suitable AC outlet.



Figure 2: Detail of the tonearm assembly and pitch control slider on the Technics SL-1200MK2.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Power On:** Press the power button to turn on the turntable. The strobe light will illuminate.
2. **Select Speed:** Choose the appropriate playback speed (33 1/3 or 45 RPM) using the speed selector buttons. The strobe dots on the platter will appear stationary when the correct speed is achieved.
3. **Place Record:** Carefully place a vinyl record onto the platter. Use the 45 RPM adapter for records with larger center holes.
4. **Start Platter Rotation:** Press the START/STOP button to begin platter rotation.
5. **Position Tonearm:** Gently lift the tonearm using the cueing lever. Move the tonearm over the desired starting groove of the record.
6. **Lower Tonearm:** Slowly lower the tonearm using the cueing lever. The stylus will make contact with the record, and playback will begin.
7. **Adjust Pitch:** Use the sliding pitch control to fine-tune the playback speed. The strobe light can assist in verifying the speed.
8. **Stop Playback:** To stop playback, lift the tonearm using the cueing lever, return it to the tonearm rest, and press the START/STOP button.

6. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning the Stylus:** Regularly clean the stylus using a soft brush designed for this purpose, brushing gently from back to front.

- **Cleaning the Record:** Use a carbon fiber brush or a record cleaning solution to keep your vinyl records free of dust and static.
- **Cleaning the Turntable:** Wipe the turntable's surface and dust cover with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Dust Cover Care:** Handle the dust cover carefully to prevent scratches. When not in use, keep the dust cover closed to protect the platter and tonearm from dust.
- **Cartridge Replacement:** Replace the phono cartridge or stylus according to the manufacturer's recommendations or when sound quality degrades.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cord not connected; outlet not active.	Ensure power cord is securely plugged in. Check power outlet.
No sound or low volume	Incorrect amplifier input; loose audio cables; damaged stylus/cartridge.	Connect to PHONO input. Check RCA and ground wire connections. Inspect stylus/cartridge for damage.
Humming sound	Ground wire not connected; interference.	Ensure ground wire is securely connected. Move turntable away from other electronic devices.
Skipping or distorted sound	Incorrect tracking force/anti-skate; dirty stylus/record; turntable not level.	Adjust tracking force and anti-skate. Clean stylus and record. Ensure turntable is level.
Incorrect playback speed	Wrong speed selected; pitch control misadjusted.	Select correct speed (33 1/3 or 45 RPM). Adjust pitch control using the strobe.

8. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	Technics
Model Name	SL-1200MK2
Product Dimensions	17 x 16 x 15 inches
Item Weight	17 pounds
Manufacturer	Technics
Motor Type	AC Motor (Direct-Drive)
Wow & Flutter	0.01% WRMS
Rumble	-78dB
Pitch Adjustment Range	+/-8% (16% total)
Start-up Time	0.7 seconds
Material	Die-cast aluminum body, heavy rubber base
Color	Black, Grey
Compatible Devices	Speaker, Headphone (via amplifier/mixer)

Included Components	Detachable headshell (among others)
Date First Available	September 22, 2002

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Legal Disclaimer

Please note: This product is sold as-is and may show signs of prior use. There are no returns or exchanges. For official support or warranty information regarding new products, please refer to the manufacturer's official website or contact their customer service directly. This manual provides general operational guidance for the Technics SL-1200MK2 model.

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