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Panasonic SL1210MK2

Technics SL-1210MK2 Professional Turntable User Manual

Model: SL-1210MK2

1. Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your Technics SL-1210MK2 Professional Turntable. Please read it thoroughly before using the unit to ensure optimal performance and longevity.
The Technics SL-1210MK2 is a quartz-synthesized direct-drive turntable renowned for its robust construction, precise speed control, and high torque motor, making it an industry standard for professional DJs and audiophiles.

2. Key Features

- **Quartz-Synthesized Direct-Drive:** Ensures stable platter rotation with exceptional speed accuracy.
- **Continuous Pitch Adjustment:** Allows for precise speed adjustments up to ±8%.
- **High Performance:** Features 0.01% wow and flutter and -78dB rumble for superior audio reproduction.
- **Durable Construction:** Precision molded aluminum die-cast cabinet with a heavy rubber base minimizes vibrations.
- **Low-Mass Tonearm:** Equipped with a gimbal suspension for accurate tracking.
- **Switchable Voltage:** Designed for versatility in various electrical environments.

3. Setup

3.1 Unpacking and Placement

1. Carefully remove all components from the packaging.
2. Place the turntable on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive vibration.
3. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit.



Figure 1: Technics SL-1210MK2 Turntable with dust cover open, showing the platter and tonearm assembly.

3.2 Platter and Slipmat Installation

1. Gently place the aluminum platter onto the center spindle. Ensure it sits flush.
2. Place the rubber slipmat on top of the platter.

3.3 Tonearm and Cartridge Setup

1. Attach your preferred cartridge to the headshell.
2. Mount the headshell onto the tonearm.
3. **Balance the Tonearm:** Adjust the counterweight at the rear of the tonearm until the tonearm floats horizontally.
4. **Set Tracking Force:** Rotate the counterweight's numbered ring to the recommended tracking force for your cartridge (typically 1.5-3.0 grams).
5. **Set Anti-Skate:** Adjust the anti-skate dial to match the tracking force setting.



Figure 2: Detailed view of the tonearm assembly, including the counterweight and anti-skate adjustment dial.

3.4 Connections

1. Connect the RCA audio cables from the turntable to the PHONO input of your amplifier or mixer. Ensure correct left (white) and right (red) channel connections.
2. Connect the ground wire from the turntable to the ground terminal on your amplifier or mixer to prevent hum.
3. Plug the power cord into a suitable AC outlet. The SL-1210MK2 supports switchable voltage (110V/220V); ensure the correct voltage is selected for your region.



Figure 3: Rear panel of the turntable displaying the RCA audio outputs and power input.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Basic Operation

1. **Power On:** Rotate the POWER knob clockwise to turn on the unit. The strobe light will illuminate.
2. **Select Speed:** Press the 33 or 45 RPM button to select the desired playback speed for your record.
3. **Start Platter:** Press the START/STOP button to begin platter rotation.
4. **Place Record:** Carefully place a record on the platter.
5. **Lower Tonearm:** Use the tonearm lift lever to gently lower the stylus onto the record's lead-in groove.
6. **Stop Playback:** Lift the tonearm using the lever and return it to the tonearm rest. Press START/STOP to halt platter rotation.



Figure 4: Front-left controls of the turntable, including the power knob, start/stop button, and speed selection buttons.

4.2 Pitch Control

The pitch control slider allows you to adjust the playback speed by up to ±8%. Moving the slider up increases speed, and moving it down decreases speed. The center detent indicates 0% pitch adjustment (nominal speed). The strobe dots on the platter edge, illuminated by the pop-up target light, help verify accurate speed.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

- **Dust Cover:** Keep the dust cover closed when not in use to protect the turntable from dust. Clean with a soft, dry cloth.
- **Cabinet:** Wipe the turntable cabinet with a soft, slightly damp cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Stylus:** Regularly clean the stylus using a soft brush designed for stylus cleaning, brushing gently from back to front.

5.2 Stylus and Cartridge Care

- Replace the stylus when signs of wear appear (e.g., distorted sound, increased surface noise). A worn stylus can damage your records.
- Handle cartridges with care. Avoid touching the stylus tip.

6. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or low volume	Incorrect connections; amplifier input not set to PHONO; damaged stylus/cartridge.	Check RCA and ground connections. Ensure amplifier is set to PHONO input. Inspect stylus and cartridge.
Platter does not spin	Power not connected; POWER knob off; START/STOP button not pressed.	Verify power connection. Rotate POWER knob clockwise. Press START/STOP.
Speed is unstable or incorrect	Pitch control not at 0%; incorrect speed selected.	Set pitch control to the center detent. Select the correct 33 or 45 RPM speed.
Skipping or distorted sound	Improper tracking force/anti-skate; dirty or worn stylus; dirty record; turntable not level.	Re-balance tonearm and adjust tracking force/anti-skate. Clean stylus and record. Ensure turntable is level.
Humming noise	Ground wire not connected; interference from other electronics.	Connect the ground wire. Move turntable away from other electronic devices.

7. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Name	SL1210MK2
Motor Type	AC Motor, Quartz-synthesized direct-drive
Speeds	33-1/3 RPM, 45 RPM
Pitch Adjustment	Continuous, up to ±8%
Wow and Flutter	0.01% WRMS
Rumble	-78dB (IEC 98A Weighted)
Tonearm	Universal S-shaped, static-balance type with gimbal suspension
Dimensions (W x H x D)	17.8 x 6.4 x 14.2 inches (approx.)
Weight	31.4 pounds (approx.)
Voltage	Switchable 110V/220V
Material	Aluminum die-cast cabinet, rubber base

8. Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Panasonic website or contact your local authorized Technics dealer. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.
Online resources and FAQs may also be available on the official product support pages.

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