

AT AT Turntable Cartridge and Stylus

AT Turntable Cartridge and Stylus Instruction Manual

For Kenwood Turntable Models: KD-491F, KD-492F, KD-492FC, KD-55R, KD-55RC, KD-36R, KD-56R, KD-66F

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your new AT turntable cartridge and stylus. This product is designed to deliver high-quality audio reproduction from your vinyl records when used with compatible Kenwood turntable models.

The cartridge features a frequency response of 20-22,000 Hz and a channel separation greater than 22dB at 1kHz, ensuring clear and accurate sound. The recommended downforce for optimal performance is between 1.0 and 1.5 grams.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always handle the cartridge and stylus with care to prevent damage to the delicate stylus tip.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not attempt to disassemble the cartridge, as this may void any warranty and cause damage.
- Ensure your turntable is powered off and unplugged before performing any installation or maintenance.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in your package:

- AT Turntable Cartridge
- Stylus (pre-installed or separate)
- Spare Stylus
- Stylus Guard
- Fixing Bolt(s) for mounting



Image 1: The AT turntable cartridge shown with its clear protective stylus guard.

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Follow these steps to install the cartridge and stylus onto your turntable's tonearm. Refer to your turntable's specific manual for detailed tonearm adjustments.

1. **Power Off Turntable:** Ensure your turntable is completely powered off and unplugged from the mains electricity.
2. **Remove Old Cartridge (if applicable):** Carefully disconnect the four color-coded wires from the old cartridge. Note their positions (usually Red for Right Hot, Green for Right Ground, White/Clear for Left Hot, Blue for Left Ground). Unscrew and remove the old cartridge from the headshell.
3. **Mount New Cartridge:** Align the new AT cartridge with the mounting holes on your turntable's headshell. Use the provided fixing bolt(s) to secure the cartridge. Do not overtighten.
4. **Connect Wires:** Carefully connect the four color-coded wires from the tonearm to the corresponding pins on the new cartridge. Ensure a firm connection without bending the pins.
5. **Install Stylus:** If the stylus is not pre-installed, gently slide the stylus assembly into the front of the cartridge body until it clicks securely into place. Avoid touching the stylus tip.
6. **Set Tracking Force (Downforce):** Adjust your turntable's tonearm counterweight to achieve the recommended tracking force (downforce) of **1.0 to 1.5 grams**. Refer to your turntable manual for precise adjustment procedures.
7. **Adjust Anti-Skate:** Set the anti-skate mechanism on your tonearm to match the tracking force.
8. **Check Alignment:** For optimal sound and record preservation, ensure the cartridge is properly aligned within the headshell. This often requires a protractor (not included).



Image 2: A green replacement stylus, ready for installation into the cartridge body.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once the cartridge and stylus are correctly installed and adjusted, you can begin playing records:

1. **Place Record:** Carefully place a clean vinyl record onto the turntable platter.
2. **Remove Stylus Guard:** Gently remove the stylus guard from the cartridge. Store it in a safe place.
3. **Lower Tonearm:** Use the tonearm lift lever to gently lower the stylus onto the record's lead-in groove. Avoid dropping the tonearm manually.
4. **Playback:** The record will begin to play. Adjust your amplifier's volume as needed.
5. **End of Playback:** At the end of the record, use the tonearm lift lever to raise the stylus. Return the tonearm to its rest and re-attach the stylus guard.

6. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures optimal sound quality and extends the life of your stylus and records.

6.1. Cleaning the Stylus

Dust and debris can accumulate on the stylus tip, affecting sound quality. Clean the stylus regularly:

- Use a soft stylus brush, specifically designed for this purpose.
- Brush gently from back to front (from the pivot point towards the stylus tip). Never brush side-to-side or front-to-back, as this can damage the cantilever.
- For stubborn dirt, a specialized stylus cleaning fluid can be used sparingly with a stylus brush.

6.2. Replacing the Stylus

Stylus tips wear out over time, typically after 500-1000 hours of playback, depending on care and record condition. A worn stylus can damage your records and degrade sound quality. Replace it when signs of wear appear or after recommended usage hours.

1. **Power Off Turntable:** Ensure the turntable is off and unplugged.
2. **Remove Old Stylus:** Gently grasp the stylus assembly (often by the plastic housing) and pull it straight forward and out from the cartridge body.
3. **Install New Stylus:** Take the new stylus (e.g., the spare stylus provided) and carefully align it with the cartridge body. Gently push it straight back into the cartridge until it clicks firmly into place. Avoid touching the stylus tip.
4. **Re-check Tracking Force:** After replacing the stylus, it is good practice to re-check and adjust the tracking force.

6.3. Using the Stylus Guard

Always use the stylus guard when the turntable is not in use or when moving the tonearm to prevent accidental damage to the stylus tip.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues, consult this section before seeking professional assistance.

- **No Sound:**
 - Check all audio connections from the turntable to your amplifier/receiver.
 - Ensure the cartridge wires are correctly connected to the cartridge pins.
 - Verify your amplifier input is set to "Phono" (if applicable) or the correct line input.
- **Distorted or Muffled Sound:**
 - Clean the stylus tip (refer to Section 6.1).
 - Check the tracking force; it might be too high or too low. Adjust to 1.0-1.5 grams.
 - Ensure the cartridge is properly aligned in the headshell.
 - Inspect the stylus for damage or wear. Replace if necessary.
 - Clean your records.
- **Skipping:**
 - Check tracking force; it might be too low.
 - Ensure the turntable is on a stable, level surface.
 - Clean the record and stylus.
 - Check anti-skate setting.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Audio-Technica
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Frequency Response	20-22,000 Hz
Channel Separation	> 22dB at 1kHz
Recommended Downforce	1.0 - 1.5 grams
Compatible Kenwood Models	KD-491F, KD-492F, KD-492FC, KD-55R, KD-55RC, KD-36R, KD-56R, KD-66F

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This AT turntable cartridge and stylus is covered by the manufacturer's standard warranty. Please refer to the warranty information provided with your purchase or visit the Audio-Technica official website for details.

For technical support or further assistance, please contact Audio-Technica customer service through their official channels.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question

