

AT AT Cartridge for Technics SL Series

AT Cartridge and Stylus Instruction Manual

For Technics SL-QD2, SL-QD35, SL-QL1, SL-QL15, SL-QL5, SL-QX300, SL-V5 Turntables

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your new AT cartridge and stylus. This product is designed to deliver high-quality audio performance with compatible Technics SL series turntables. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your equipment.

Compatible Turntable Models:

- Technics SL-QD2
- Technics SL-QD35
- Technics SL-QL1
- Technics SL-QL15
- Technics SL-QL5
- Technics SL-QX300
- Technics SL-V5

2. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

2.1 Unpacking Contents

Carefully unpack all items from the packaging. The package should contain:

- AT Cartridge
- AT Stylus (pre-installed or separate)
- Stylus Guard
- Fixing Bolt
- Spare Stylus

2.2 Tools Required

- Small Phillips head screwdriver
- Tweezers (optional, for wire connections)
- Stylus force gauge (recommended for precise tracking force adjustment)

- Cartridge alignment protractor (recommended for optimal sound)

2.3 Installation Steps

1. **Power Off:** Ensure your turntable is powered off and unplugged from the mains electricity supply.
2. **Remove Old Cartridge (if applicable):** If replacing an existing cartridge, carefully disconnect the four small wires from the pins at the back of the old cartridge using tweezers or your fingers. Unscrew the mounting screws that secure the cartridge to the headshell and remove it.
3. **Attach New Cartridge:** Position the new AT cartridge onto the headshell. Use the provided fixing bolt 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 back of the AT cartridge. The standard color code is:
 - Red: Right Channel Hot (R+)
 - Green: Right Channel Ground (R-)
 - White: Left Channel Hot (L+)
 - Blue: Left Channel Ground (L-)

Refer to your turntable's manual for specific wiring if unsure.



Image: AT Cartridge showing connection pins and fixing bolt. This image displays the rear of the black AT cartridge, highlighting the four metal connection pins and the included fixing bolt, essential for mounting the cartridge to a turntable's headshell.

5. **Install Stylus:** If the stylus is not pre-installed, carefully slide the stylus assembly onto the front of the cartridge body until it clicks securely into place. Ensure the stylus guard is in the down position to protect the needle during handling.



Image: AT Cartridge and Stylus with Stylus Guard and Fixing Bolt. This image shows the black AT cartridge with its clear protective stylus guard in place, alongside the small black fixing bolt used for mounting.



Image: Green replacement stylus for AT Cartridge. This image features a vibrant green replacement stylus, highlighting its delicate needle,

ready for installation onto the cartridge body.

6. **Balance Tonearm:** Follow your turntable's instructions to balance the tonearm. This typically involves adjusting the counterweight until the tonearm floats level.
7. **Set Tracking Force:** Set the tracking force to the recommended range of **1.0-1.5 grams**. Use a stylus force gauge for accuracy.
8. **Set Anti-Skate:** Adjust the anti-skate setting on your turntable according to the tracking force. This compensates for the inward pull on the tonearm.
9. **Cartridge Alignment:** For optimal sound reproduction and to minimize record wear, align the cartridge using an alignment protractor. This ensures the stylus tracks the record grooves correctly.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Playing Records

1. Place a record on the turntable platter.
2. Remove the stylus guard from the cartridge.
3. Gently lift the tonearm using the cueing lever.
4. Position the tonearm over the desired starting groove of the record.
5. Lower the cueing lever to gently drop the stylus onto the record.
6. At the end of the record, use the cueing lever to lift the tonearm and return it to its rest.
7. Always replace the stylus guard when the turntable is not in use.

3.2 Handling Records

Always handle records by their edges or label to avoid transferring oils and dirt to the playing surface. Store records vertically in their sleeves to prevent warping.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Stylus Cleaning

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

- Use a soft stylus brush, brushing gently from back to front (never side-to-side or front-to-back).
- For stubborn dirt, a specialized stylus cleaning fluid can be used sparingly with the brush.

4.2 Cartridge Cleaning

Wipe the cartridge body with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to remove dust. Avoid using liquid cleaners directly on the cartridge.

4.3 Stylus Replacement

The stylus is a consumable part and will wear out over time, typically after 500-1000 hours of play, depending on care and record condition. A worn stylus can damage records and degrade sound quality. Replace the stylus when you notice a decrease in sound quality or visible wear.

- To replace, gently pull the old stylus assembly forward and down from the cartridge body.
- Align the new stylus (including the spare provided) with the cartridge body and push it gently upwards and backwards until it clicks into place.

4.4 Dust Cover

Keep your turntable's dust cover closed when not in use to protect the cartridge, stylus, and records from dust and environmental debris.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or very low sound	Incorrect wiring; amplifier input not selected; stylus not properly seated.	Check cartridge wiring connections; ensure amplifier is set to 'Phono' input; re-seat stylus firmly.
Distorted or muffled sound	Dirty or worn stylus; incorrect tracking force; improper alignment.	Clean stylus; check and adjust tracking force (1.0-1.5g); verify cartridge alignment. Replace stylus if worn.
Skipping or jumping	Incorrect tracking force; anti-skate setting incorrect; dirty or damaged record; damaged stylus.	Adjust tracking force; adjust anti-skate; clean record; inspect stylus for damage and replace if necessary.
Humming or buzzing noise	Ground wire not connected; interference; loose connections.	Ensure turntable ground wire is connected to amplifier; check all audio cable connections; move turntable away from other electronics.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency Response	20-22,000 Hz
Channel Separation	> 22dB at 1kHz
Recommended Downforce	1.0-1.5 grams
Product Dimensions	5.12 x 6.38 x 9.84 inches
Manufacturer	audio-technica
ASIN	B074BB3YTD
Date First Available	July 27, 2017

7. WARRANTY INFORMATION

Specific warranty terms and conditions for this AT cartridge and stylus are typically provided by the manufacturer or the retailer at the time of purchase. Please refer to the documentation included with your product or contact your point of purchase for detailed warranty information.

8. CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For technical assistance, replacement parts, or further inquiries regarding your AT cartridge and stylus, please contact the retailer from whom you purchased the product or visit the official audio-technica website for support resources.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

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Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

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