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Nobsound Turntable Cartridge Alignment Kit

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Model: Turntable Cartridge Alignment Kit

1. Introduction

This manual provides instructions for the proper use and maintenance of your Nobsound Turntable Cartridge Alignment Kit. This comprehensive kit is designed to assist in the precise setup and calibration of turntable cartridges and tonearms, ensuring optimal audio playback and stylus longevity. Please read these instructions carefully before use.

2. Package Contents

Verify that all items listed below are present in your kit:



Image 2.1: Overview of the Nobsound Turntable Cartridge Alignment Kit components within its protective silver case.

- 1x Stylus Force Gauge (Digital Scale)
- 1x VTA/Azimuth Ruler (Acrylic Block)
- 1x Cartridge Alignment Protractor (Paper/Card)
- 1x Large Bubble Spirit Level
- 4x Small Bubble Spirit Levels
- 1x Record Brush
- 1x Stylus Brush
- 1x Record Adapter (45 RPM)
- 1x Screwdriver
- 1x Tweezer
- 1 set of Cartridge Leads (4 cables)
- 1 set of Mounting Screws
- 1x Silver Storage Case



Image 2.2: Detailed view of the kit's packing list, showing all included accessories.

3. Setup and Preparation

Before beginning any alignment procedures, ensure your turntable is placed on a stable, level surface. Disconnect power to the turntable if necessary, especially when handling the cartridge or tonearm.

1. **Level the Turntable Plinth:** Place the Large Bubble Spirit Level on the turntable plinth (base). Adjust the turntable's feet until the bubble is perfectly centered, indicating a level surface.
2. **Level the Platter:** Place the Large Bubble Spirit Level on the turntable platter. Ensure the platter is also level.
3. **Clean Record and Stylus:** Use the provided Record Brush to gently clean any dust or debris from your record. Use the Stylus Brush to carefully clean the stylus tip.
4. **Prepare Cartridge:** If installing a new cartridge, use the Tweezer and Screwdriver to attach it to the headshell using the provided screws and cartridge leads. Ensure correct wiring (usually Red-Right Hot, Green-Right Ground, White-Left Hot, Blue-Left Ground).

4. Operating Instructions

4.1. Setting Stylus Tracking Force (VTF)

Accurate tracking force is crucial for sound quality and stylus/record longevity.

1. Place the Stylus Force Gauge on the turntable platter, ensuring it is level.
2. Turn on the gauge and zero it if necessary.
3. Carefully lower the stylus onto the designated measuring point of the gauge.
4. Adjust the tonearm's counterweight until the gauge displays the manufacturer's recommended tracking force for your cartridge. Make small adjustments and re-measure.



Image 4.1.1: The digital stylus force gauge accurately measuring the vertical tracking force of the cartridge.

4.2. Cartridge Alignment (Overhang and Offset Angle)

The Alignment Protractor helps minimize tracking error distortion across the record surface.

1. Place the Alignment Protractor over the turntable spindle.
2. Carefully lower the stylus onto the outer alignment grid's crosshairs.

3. Adjust the cartridge position (slide it forward/backward in the headshell) and angle (rotate it slightly) until the cantilever is parallel with the grid lines.
4. Repeat the process for the inner alignment grid. Adjustments may be iterative between the two points.
5. Once aligned, tighten the cartridge mounting screws securely.



Image 4.2.1: Using the cartridge alignment protractor to set the correct overhang and offset angle.

4.3. Setting Vertical Tracking Angle (VTA) and Azimuth

These adjustments fine-tune channel balance, imaging, and detail retrieval.

1. **VTA:** Place the VTA/Azimuth Ruler on a flat record on the platter. Lower the stylus onto the record groove. Position the ruler next to the cartridge. Observe if the tonearm is parallel to the record surface. Adjust the tonearm height (if your turntable allows) until the tonearm is parallel.
2. **Azimuth:** With the stylus resting on the record, place the VTA/Azimuth Ruler in front of the cartridge. View the cartridge from the front. The stylus cantilever should be perfectly perpendicular to the record surface. If it appears tilted, adjust the headshell rotation (if your tonearm allows) until it is vertical. Use the small bubble spirit level on the headshell for precise azimuth adjustment.



Image 4.3.1: The VTA/Azimuth ruler being used to check the vertical tracking angle and azimuth of the cartridge.



Image 4.3.2: A small bubble spirit level placed on the headshell to verify its horizontal alignment for azimuth.

4.4. Using the Record Adapter

The included record adapter is for playing 7-inch vinyl records with a large center hole (45 RPM singles) on turntables designed for LPs.

1. Place the adapter over the turntable spindle.
2. Place the 45 RPM record onto the adapter.

4.5. Official Product Video Guide

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Video 4.5.1: An official video demonstrating the components and basic usage of the Nobsound Cartridge Alignment Tonearm Turntable Tuning Kit.

5. Maintenance

- **Cleaning Tools:** Keep all alignment tools clean and free of dust. Wipe acrylic rulers and protractors with a soft, lint-free cloth.
- **Storage:** Store all components in the provided silver case when not in use to protect them from damage and dust.
- **Stylus Brush:** Use the stylus brush regularly to remove dust from the stylus tip. Always brush from back to front.
- **Record Brush:** Use the record brush before each play to remove surface dust from records.
- **Digital Gauge:** Keep the digital stylus force gauge dry and clean. Replace batteries as needed.

6. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Distorted sound / Skipping	Incorrect tracking force, misaligned cartridge, unlevel turntable.	Re-check tracking force with gauge. Re-align cartridge with protractor. Ensure turntable is level with spirit levels.
Poor channel separation / Imbalanced sound	Incorrect azimuth or VTA.	Adjust azimuth using the small spirit level on the headshell. Adjust VTA to ensure tonearm is parallel to the record.
Humming noise	Improper cartridge wiring, grounding issue.	Verify cartridge lead connections are secure and correct. Ensure turntable is properly grounded.
Stylus force gauge not turning on	Dead batteries.	Replace batteries in the digital stylus force gauge.

7. Specifications

- **Item Weight:** 1.96 pounds (0.89 kg)
- **Package Dimensions:** 10.08 x 8.74 x 3.03 inches (25.6 x 22.2 x 7.7 cm)
- **Stylus Force Gauge:** Digital, typically measures in grams (g)
- **Alignment Protractor:** Universal design for most tonearms
- **Spirit Levels:** High-precision bubbles for accurate leveling

8. Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the product packaging or contact Nobsound customer service through their official website or the retailer where the product was purchased. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.
Nobsound Official Store: Visit Nobsound Store on Amazon

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