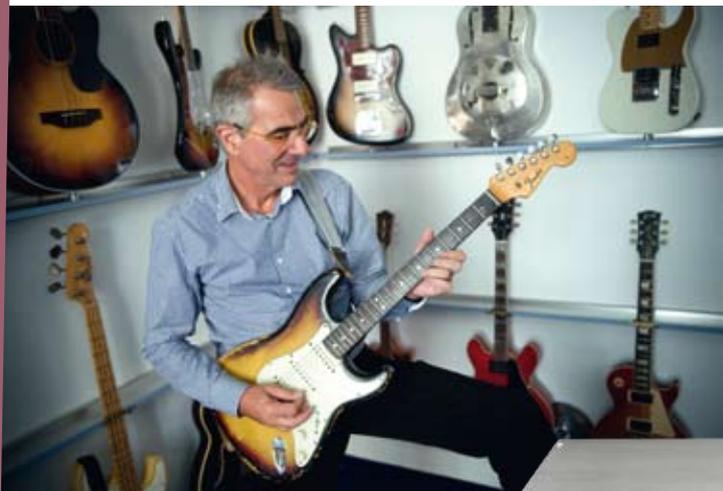


VINYL vintages

Claiming a pedigree of innovative acoustic eminence, Burmester's latest preamplifier appeals to the LP-lover in us all



Some 30 years later, **Burmester Audiosysteme** is still hand-assembling the latest in sound equipment with the goal, says Burmester, of making listeners forget that the music is being played through an electronic device. "When you can just close your eyes and fall into the music, you're on your way to what we aspire towards."

Enhancing this tangible sound reality is a constant pursuit for the company. "For us," he says, "standing still means taking a step back." But for vinyl enthusiasts, taking a step back is the point: analogue's precious appeal must be forever guarded from the corrosive forces of effervescent digitalisation.

"For me, this music is a part of our culture, going back over centuries," he explains, "and what's contained on a record is like a priceless book in a library which should be cherished and treasured." Vinyls may always require a velvet glove, but Burmester has sought to gain access to these cultural gems without scratching the surface of the jewels themselves.

And so it was that the 100 Phono Preamplifier came to be – the first deluxe option for professionally archiving

analogue records. "When our units digitise a record," he explains, "they add no white noise whatsoever. You can't beat that."

As for doubters, Burmester prefers to let the music speak for itself: "I would put a record player behind one curtain and a digital version on CD behind another, and if people could actually tell the difference, I would give them the amplifier for free."

Even so, few clients acquainted with Burmester's built-to-last ethos would feel the need to take such a challenge. Extending beyond the timeless designs it continues to produce, the company offers modifications to many of its previous models, which owners can then ship back for a fine-tuned upgrade. "This is how you maintain the value of the device over time," he says. Unlike others immersed in the inexorable march of progress, Burmester has discovered a practical approach to the best of both worlds.

WILL CADE

IN AN ERA of mass-produced sound bites, the precarious balance between high fidelity and modern technology often results in compromise or, regrettably, sacrifice. But when the two come together harmoniously, combining current bandwidths and the musical days of yore, something remarkable happens: a star is reborn, a classic remastered, and somehow, despite the viral static littering the information superhighway, an almost forgotten song from the grand soundtrack of our lives rises again.

This dichotomy is what Dieter Burmester lives for. Musician, technician and CEO – he knows all too well the various forces at play in the world of sound reproduction. The eponymous brand itself grew out of his personal crossroads between artistic inspiration and simple practicality. A weekend rocker with a daytime job designing medical equipment, Burmester was unfazed when confronted with a finicky preamp. Rather than settling for what the market – or his wages – could offer, he built his own preamp from a precision measurement device. The band never took off as planned, but his first creation was a different story altogether.



THE 100 PHONO PREAMP was released this September (from €9,000, burmester.de)



⊕ **TRANSROTOR**
Argos – ambrosia for the modern man. Had such innovations been around in the time of Zeus, the city of Argos wouldn't have needed Perseus: think a chrome-plated, aluminium frame and a free-magnet-drive motor (€139,000, transrotor.de)



⊕ **CLEARAUDIO**
With a chassis composed of stainless steel, aluminium and bulletproof wood, the Statement series stays true to its name, even without considering its drive-motor similar to that of the Mars Rover (€110,000, clearaudio.de)



⊕ **CONTINUUM**
Engineered from aerospace materials, the Caliburn system rests on a platform floating in place as a result of magnetic and pneumatic force. If it can defy gravity, just imagine how it plays an LP (€160,000, absolute-sounds.com)

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