



Entry-level MCs at its finest

It is the second time that the Chinese manufacturer Skyanalog has appeared at this point with a range of pickups. And there are good reasons for that

Under these reasons are not necessarily based on the transparent and permissive information policy of Skyanalog. In fact, it turns out to be quite difficult to find out details about the construction of the current five scanners, which the manufacturer offers under its own name.

We remember and: In the spring of last year Eckhard Derks, owner of the sales company TCG GmbH, came to me with a knowing smile with three wooden boxes wrapped in white cardboard and presented them as his new sales product. The man knows how to find exciting things in Asia, as he has been proving for years with the highly interesting amplifiers and speakers from the Vietnamese manufacturer Thivan Labs. With Skyanalog, he has found a cartridge manufacturer that has been an OEM manufacturing company for a number of well-known scanner brands for many years. It is understandable that the client does not attach great importance to being named in this context, but perhaps overly cautious: With the three models G-1, G-2 and G-3, which cost between 1000 and 2000 euros, Skyanalog has impressively proven that everything else is at work here than a cheap Chinese home-made company. In fact, owner Jack Leung started his company back in 1999. In the province of Guangdong, not far from Macau and Hong Kong, tube amplifiers were initially built, but the focus shifted over time. Now, with more than 20 years of pickup manufacturing experience on the counter, the confidence was big enough to grapple with however, the focus shifted over time. Now, with more than 20 years of pickup manufacturing experience on the counter, the confidence was big enough to grapple with however, the focus shifted over time. Now, with more than 20 years of pickup manufacturing experience on the counter, the confidence was big enough to grapple with

To trust scanners on the market under their own name. Absolutely rightly, as we can confirm after our experience with the "G" series. The G-1 boxes for me permanently in a significantly higher league than the one actually intended. In other words: It cuts a fine figure as a standard equipment of a Clearaudio Universal, which resides on the luxury drive Master Innovation.

And now this: after just six months, Skyanalog has conjured up the next trump card and delights the analog warehouse with the brand new P-1 and P-2 models at a price of 500 and 780 euros, respectively. And I have a hard time making out any noteworthy differences in paper form compared to the G-Series models. So maybe we have a really serious € 500 MC here? And that in times when even the indestructible Denon DL-103 already costs 300 euros street price? That's it, isn't it?

The two new Skyanalog scanners are almost indistinguishable from one another from the outside. Even with the housings



Teammates

Turntable:

- TechDAS Air Force III / Reed 3p
- Clearaudio Master Innovation / Universal 9 "

Phono pre-stage:

- Linnenberg Johann Sebastian Bach
- MalValve preamp three phono

Preamplifier:

- Linnenberg Georg Philipp Telemann
- NEM PRA-5

Power amplifier:

- Linnenberg Georg Friedrich Handel
- Silvercore Collector's Edition

Speaker:

- DIY Focal / JBL

Opponent

Pickups:

- Ortofon 2M Black LVB 250
- Skyanalog G1

We already know the simple wooden box as packaging from the G series



Played

VA

Tribute To A Legend

Aglaja Camphausen / Thomas Falke

Underwater calling

Curtis Harding

If Words Were Flowers

LA4

Just friends



*Here you write the origin
land with pride in the product*

you rub your eyes in amazement at the pricing: You can get massive CNC-machined aluminum here. Nothing against the modern plastic injection molding technology, which is used almost everywhere nowadays, but solid metal simply suggests a different value. The shape of the two matt black Skyanalogs differs slightly from that of the G models: While the "underbody" of the system body is smooth and straight, the housing of the P models is open on the underside, the side panels jump at the front and back a bit back. The laterally rounded mounting flange on the G-types is much thicker than on the entry-level models, but it was easily enough for mounting threads in the usual M2.5 format. The more generously opened housings of the P-1 and P-2 have consequences for the total weight of the scanner: At 8.9 grams, they weigh a good gram less than the larger models. The system bodies, which are open at the bottom, allow a more precise inspection of the generator structure for the first time. Skyanalog adheres to proven principles here. The relatively long needle carriers protrude from the front pole piece of the magnet system.

*The connection pins are
pleasantly far apart, which
makes connection easier*

*Outwardly, P-1 and
P-2 are like one egg
to another*



out, behind it the cross-shaped coil carrier with the extremely fine copper windings comes to light. The needle carrier suspension pulls it against the ring-shaped damping rubber. The bearing point should lie within the cylindrical housing arranged behind it, and a tensioning thread is sure to provide the necessary pull. Constructive marvels definitely don't catch the eye here, but fine, neatly executed craftsmanship. Differences between P-1 and P-2 are not easy to spot. Both models are equipped with a bristle stick as a needle carrier - show me where this is available elsewhere for a list price of 500 euros. On both sides of the tip there is a fine-line cut diamond that ensures intimate contact with the groove. With rounding radii of five and 150 micrometers, it is still one of the moderately sharp representatives of its guild. A couple of differences between the two scanners can be made out: The P-2 is slightly harder than the P-1 (12 μm / mN) with a needle compliance of 10 μm / mN, slightly lower (five versus six ohm generator resistance) and less Output voltage blessed (0.35 versus 0.4 mV at 3.54 cm fast). All three aspects lead to the conclusion that the P-2 simply works with fewer turns on the coils, which lowers the moving mass and increases the "acceleration capacity". The manufacturer recommends slightly higher terminating resistors for the P-2 - that doesn't quite match my experience. With a compliance of 10 μm / mN, the P-2 is slightly harder than the P-1 (12 μm / mN), has a slightly lower resistance (five versus six ohm generator resistance) and has a lower output voltage (0.35 versus 0.4 mV at 3.54 cm speed). All three aspects lead to the conclusion that the P-2 simply works with fewer turns on the coils, which lowers the moving mass and increases the "acceleration capacity". The manufacturer recommends slightly higher terminating resistors for the P-2 - that doesn't quite match my experience. With a compliance of 10 μm / mN, the P-2 is slightly harder than the P-1 (12 μm / mN), has a slightly lower resistance (five versus six ohm generator resistance) and has a lower output voltage (0.35 versus 0.4 mV at 3.54 cm speed). All three aspects lead to the conclusion that the P-2 simply works with fewer turns on the coils, which lowers the moving mass and increases the "acceleration capacity". The manufacturer recommends slightly higher terminating resistors for the P-2 - that doesn't quite match my experience. that the P-2 simply works with fewer turns on the coils, which lowers the moving mass and increases the "acceleration capacity". The manufacturer recommends slightly higher terminating resistors for the P-2 - that doesn't quite match my experience.

The assembly of both scanners proves to be gratifyingly uncritical. The straight front edge of the housing helps, especially since the needle carriers are installed straight. In terms of tracking force, I ended up at the upper end of the recommended range for both systems, i.e. 19 mN for the P1 and 20 for the P2.

Damn it - I suspected it: With them

Skyanalog has made significant progress in needle protection



Both little Skyanalogs have done so much right that it couldn't go wrong tonally. The P-1 felt right at home in the twelve-inch Reed 3P, but it took a little time to get rid of a certain bulge. The 30 hours of break-in time specified by the manufacturer are not unrealistic. In terms of terminating impedance, I landed at 300 ohms, which was the best balance between a silky high frequency range and substantial bass reproduction. Operated like this, the 500-euro gem made a truly stunning impression. We start with the brand new sampler "Tribute To A Legend", dedicated to the Thorens turntable TD 124 DD. The entry "Jazzrausch" makes it immediately clear that the P-1 is by no means one of those anemic Schöngest MCs, but rather a looper bursting with vigor.



A milled aluminum body for a 500 euro MC - that's new


hike down. There is no doubt that the P-1 exerts a certain degree of restraint at the upper end of the transmission range, which I do not see as a disadvantage at all. It plays wonderfully smoothly, completely and elegantly. If you want more asceticism, but also more transparency in the lower registers, you should deal with the P-2. It definitely plays more precisely, more agile and more audiophile, positions things better in space. But: It just doesn't rock like the little brother. With the extremely transparent two-person feat by Aglaja Camphausen and Thomas Falke, I immediately opted for the more precise P-2, here I don't want to miss out on even the smallest detail. But you want the thrust of the P-1 and the precision of the P-2? No problem: The solution to the problem is the G-1, which combines the virtues of both entry-level models quite perfectly.

Holger Barske



Skyanalog P-1, P-2

- **Price** approx. 500/780 euros
- **Sales** TCG, Nordhorn
- **Telephone** 05921 7884927
- **Internet** skyanalog.de
- **Guarantee** 2 years
- **Weight** approx. 8.9 g



Skyanalog
P-1, P-2

2/22

»Skyanalog shakes the pickup market thoroughly: The P-1 shines with joy of playing and pleasant expression, the P-2 with precision and speed. Hard to beat at this price!

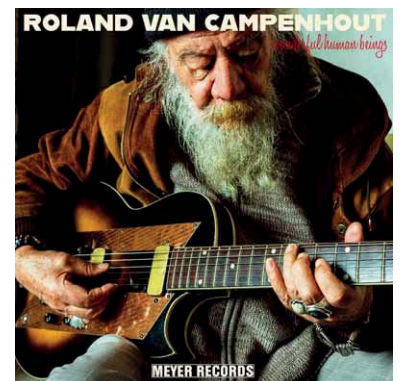
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