



THORENS TD160HD TURNTABLE

Reviewed by Roy Gregory



There at the beginning, it was Thorens which imported the three-point suspended sub-chassis formula first seen in the AR XA into Europe, originally in the shape of the TD150 and later the various TD160 models. With the benefit of 20/20 hindsight it's easy to see it as an obvious move, but let's not forget that this was a market dominated by the new direct drive technology, and not even the most optimistic projection would have predicted the way in which the three-point suspended revolution would sweep all before it in the audiophile arena.

It's a format that has all but faded from view, at least at the serious end of the turntable market, but it still has a lot to offer at more affordable price points – and never more than now with the emergence of the revitalized TD160HD. Totally reworked to incorporate sophisticated RDC material in critical applications and high-tech industrial isolation grommets in place of coil springs, the new 'table retains the appearance and compact dimensions of the original – but the performance is in another league altogether. Immensely engaging and musically energetic, the basic motor unit is an absolute bargain. But add in the ability to support and do justice to top-flight tonearms, as well as the dramatic improvements that come with attention paid to delivering a clean power supply and you've got a sleeping giant. How far can you push the envelope? We've been pushing pretty hard and haven't got to the edge yet... A classic in every sense of the word.



Price: £1250

UK Distributor: UKD
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Manufacturer: Thorens Export Co. Ltd. www.thorens.com