

The Abis SA and TA Series Tonearms

Sibatech Inc. Tokyo

One of the most original tonearm designers in Japan, with nearly 40 years of design experience, has been kind to develop two new tonearms specifically for export by Sibatech. These tonearms, with competitive pricing and good value, are the TA-1 and SA-1.

The designer (who is the president of the tonearm manufacturer) does not intend to sell these models in the Japanese domestic market, nor through Internet sales. This product is only available through Sibatech Incorporated, Tokyo, Japan.

While detailed external appearances and specifications are referenced in separate white papers, the following features are shared between these two tonearms.

- Both are machine-tooled and hand-assembled by skilled Japanese craftsmen. This highly skilled and delicate hand-assembly differentiates Abis tonearms from similar Japanese universal type tonearms. Universal type tonearms are produced by the die-casting method and by semi-automatic assembly line processes to keep production costs low.
- Hand assembly does not merely mean combining each constituent part by hand. Skilled hand assembly involves measurement, adjustment and hand-fitting to create ideal mating between machined surfaces. Once completed, the fitment between every part is ideal, satisfying every vital condition necessary for vibration and noise-free reproduction of analog sound.
- Most importantly, the key to tonearm quality is the sensitivity and stability in delicate movement, for which the bearings are the determining factor.
- Concerning the reproduced sound from these models, the designer is confident you will get precise and clean sound, which can only be derived from hand-made tonearms, but at a very reasonable price.
- In particular the SA-1 will produce rich and tight bass, coming from the

very rigid rectangular shaped tonearm wand, as bass sound is mainly recorded in the horizontal plane of the vinyl record groove.

- By the nature of this project, the tonearm manufacturer is ready to make custom versions for you, like deep red colored finish, etc, etc, subject to your own preference.



In this SA-1 assembly photo, two sets of fine miniature bearings, of the “rolling element bearing” type, are installed for both horizontal (**set in bearing stem column in this photo**) and vertical (**further small bearing at left side of tonearm wand**). This assures audiophiles of smooth tonearm function, greater longevity and consistency, and the ability to track warped vinyl.



The same type "rolling element bearing" used in the SA-1 for horizontal movement is also used for the TA-1, while a delicate pivot bearing is applied for vertical movement (**this is still a bearing but the bearing axis end is cone shaped, and requires careful assembly and adjustment**). The right side cone in this photo is inserted into the miniature bearing inner race.



In this SA-1 photo above, you may notice two small metallic round tubes, running the underside of the arm wand, along each side. This separates the right and left channel signals from the phono cartridge in order to produce optimal channel separation.