GROUPTEST RECORD CLEANING MACHINES £80-£2,540

Spin Clean **MK II <u>£80</u>**

A true original, the Spin Clean takes things back to first principles and is powered by pure elbow grease

he comparatively ancient

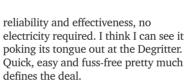
DETAILS

۲

Spin Clean MK II ORIGIN USA TYPE Manual fluid record cleaner DIMENSIONS (WxHxD) 200 x 165 x 58mm FEATURES • Cleaning liquid: alcohol free • Noise level: Negligible DISTRIBUTOR Henley Audio Ltd.

Spin Clean MK II serves as a kind of entry-level proxy RCM model for those on a tight budget that still demand the best from their black stuff. Manufactured and hand-assembled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, since 1975, there's undoubtedly a touch of genius to the thinking behind its design that's hard to naysay. All right, it's unashamedly low rent in operation and the fact that it's constructed from garish yellow plastic isn't ideal, but the colour has been chosen so you can more easily see the contrasting crud it pulls from the grooves. Its basic (and I really do mean basic) design may reach back to the Seventies (the design was basic then too), but its proven longevity

speaks to its elbow grease-powered



Actually, in principle, it's not so different to the Degritter, able to clean both sides of a record at once. Like the magic toaster from Estonia, your chosen vinyl enters from the top, toaster style, slotting in between two brushes and rollers at the bottom of the cleaning liquid bath.

That's where the operational similarities judder to a standstill, of course. The opposite of automatic, the Spin Clean MK II is small and light and doesn't need to be plugged in. Oh and there's no installation required. Additionally, you never have to adjust the brushes (they're pre-set at the right pressure). Each Spin Clean MK II comes with a 4oz bottle of washer fluid (enough to clean up to 700 records), two washable and re-useable MK II drying cloths, one pair of MK II brushes, one pair of MK II rollers and the owner's manual.

The liquid, incidentally, is proclaimed to be Spin Clean's 'secret weapon', a special formulation that captures the dirt removed from the record and sinks it to the bottom of the washer basin, where it's all too visible against the yellow paintjob, rather than being redeposited in the grooves. The liquid is also alcohol free and therefore safe to use with old Shellac 78s. That's it, kids. Go clean!

In action

Want to roll your sleeves up and get involved? This is the RCM for you. To make the washing solution, it's necessary to fill the basin until it touches the full line on the inside and then ease the cleaning brushes into their assigned slots and pour about three or four caps full of the cleaning liquid over them. After that, slide the rollers into the appropriate support, which will depend on the size of the record you are cleaning. Now you do the rolling to clean a record, either hand will do.

The user manual recommends three revolutions in each direction to be safe, though that's most likely flexible depending on the state of the vinyl when it went in. The drying process is even more charmingly rudimentary. No balmy breezes or powerfully focused suction to rely on here, but a roughly estimated period of handheld dripping before placing the record on one of the supplied clean towels and drying with the other.

Want to roll your sleeves up and get involved? This is the RCM for you!

The real kicker, though, is how well the Spin Clean MK II works. No, it can't compete with the Degritter – what a result that would be – but it isn't embarrassed by any of the other RCMs in this roundup when it comes to sound quality. Every grimy, unloved record subjected to the yellow peril's stripped-back charms emerges in cheerier form, annoying background hash impressively subdued, music restored to a more brightly lit centre stage. You really can't ask for much more than that ●



www.hifichoice.co.uk





REPRINTED FROM **HAChoice** FOR GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION

۲

۲