

Pro-Ject

Flatten It record flattener

A WARPED RECORD can cause havoc with your cartridge VTA. All your careful adjustments are rendered useless when the warp lifts your cartridge skywards and in extreme cases it can cause it to jump out of the groove altogether. The safest solution is to use a record flattener like this one from Pro-Ject.

Built with a solid aluminium construction, the Flatten It is well made and works with all record sizes and thicknesses. It uses precision-heated aluminium plates to maintain accurate temperature control (it has a very low temperature hysteresis of just 2°C). Given the variations in the composition of vinyl over the years, a perfect result cannot be guaranteed by the manufacturer every time.

One of my recent purchases was an LP that was warped, so as per the instructions, I set the 'Heating/Cooling' switch of the Flatten It to

the 'Heating' position and turn on the unit. I then place the LP on the platform, close the lid and monitor the temperature on the display, which can be switched between Celsius and Fahrenheit. After an hour or so, the temperature stabilises between 56°C and 58°C. As this is electronically regulated, the record can be left inside for an extended period without risk of overheating. After a couple of hours, I switch the device to 'Cooling' mode and allow it to cool down to around 30°C before I open the lid and remove the disc.

Warp factor

After inspecting the record, I am pleased to report that I now have a flat album! On playing the record, I can confirm that there are no audible changes resulting from the process,



except the lack of the faint 'whoosh' I used to hear when the warp passed by – result! Next I try flattening a badly warped and unplayable record for a friend and am pleased to discover that it is also perfectly flattened and now plays as it should.

The Flatten It is good value for money and provides great results during my time testing it. This is an ideal investment for people who purchase a large number of records, as well as for vinyl dealers. **NR**

DETAILS

PRICE
£750

WEBSITE
henleyaudio.co.uk

OUR VERDICT

