

Iconic Artwork, Audiophile Design: Pro- Ject Launches Scorpions Turntable

First Artist Collection Release of 2026 Celebrates One of Rock's Most Influential Bands and Iconic Album Art



Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK – 20 January 2026: Pro-Ject has unveiled the Pro-Ject Scorpions Turntable, featuring the striking artwork from the German hard-rock band's 1982 album *Blackout*. Since forming in Hanover in 1965, Scorpions have sold over 100 million albums worldwide. *Blackout* was the band's eighth studio album, and in 2017, *Rolling Stone* ranked it 73rd on their list of *The 100 Greatest Metal Albums of All Time*.

The album cover is based on a self-portrait by Vienna-born artist Gottfried Helnwein. The image shows Helnwein with bandages, his mouth frozen mid-scream, and forks pointed at his eyes. It forms part of his series of hyper-real, staged self-portraits exploring pain, trauma, and identity. Known for photorealistic paintings, Helnwein continues to challenge audiences as a provocateur, using his work to engage with social issues: 'My work has really always been an attempt to come to terms with or react to that which affects me.'

The artwork wasn't created for the album; it dates from around 1981–82. Band members Rudolf Schenker and Klaus Meine reportedly discovered the image in Stern magazine and sought Helnwein's permission to use it. For the cover, Helnwein made only minor adjustments to colours and background to suit the LP format, leaving the central image intact.

The story behind the album's title track is pure rock'n'roll. As Scorpions guitarist Rudolf Schenker recalled to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*:

'Blackout was a song that actually came out of a situation when I was partying with the Judas Priest guys, Glenn and K.K., and with Def Leppard. It was a hard party – no question –, and I had a blackout, which I didn't even know existed. I told (drummer) Herman the story. He said, "You know what you had? You had a blackout." Then he added, "Oh, by the way, that's a great title for an album.'"

The Pro-Ject Artist Collection celebrates the musicians and artworks that have shaped music and culture. The Scorpions Turntable is handmade in Europe, designed and built by Pro-Ject with the care and quality this iconic band deserves.

Based on the T2 turntable platform, the deck uses a belt-drive design with precision-engineered mechanics. It can reproduce a wide range of music with accuracy and consistency. The CNC-machined plinth has been enlarged for greater stability and is constructed from non-plastic materials to reduce unwanted vibrations. A heavy glass platter is used to minimise resonance, while the turntable feet help isolate the unit from external vibrations.

The Scorpions Turntable employs a straight 9" aluminium tonearm with low-friction bearings for accurate tracking. Its integrated headshell reduces vibration, and the spring-based anti-skating mechanism allows adjustment for optimal cartridge performance. The turntable comes equipped with a pre-adjusted Pick it 25A Moving Magnet cartridge, ready to rock straight from the box.

'The Scorpions are one of the most influential rock bands of all time,' said Heinz Lichtenegger, CEO of Pro-Ject Audio Systems. 'This special edition turntable is designed for audiophiles, collectors, and dedicated fans. It offers superb performance alongside an unmistakable visual impact.'

The Pro-Ject Scorpions Turntable is available now by special order in the UK, priced at £629.00. Henley Audio is the exclusive UK distributor of Pro-Ject.

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Notes for Editors

About Pro-Ject Audio Systems

Pro-Ject Audio Systems is widely recognised as one of the finest turntable manufacturers in the world. Its mission is to produce the best-sounding analogue components at the most competitive prices possible. The current range spans a wide variety of price points, with a variety of products targeted to key demographics or to accommodate any of the modern listener's unique requirements. Based in the Austrian countryside, Pro-Ject Audio Systems uses specialised manufacturing partners in mainland Europe to produce its products.

www.project-audio.com



About Henley Audio

Henley Audio has been importing and distributing industry-leading hi-fi equipment to the UK and Ireland since 1997. With a passion for great sound and a firm focus on brand integrity, it works to deliver excellence in both product and service. Formed as the result of a management buy-out of Ortofon UK, Henley Designs Ltd. (trading as Henley Audio) operates in-house sales, marketing, service, support, and warehouse teams to offer the full turn-key solution for suppliers. The brands it represents are highly regarded in their own right and share a symbiotic relationship with other brands in its portfolio.

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