



regga

A U D I O E Q U I P M E N T

THE HISTORY

The first turntable to come from Rega was the famous Planet, which went on sale in 1973. It was created by Roy Gandy with the help of his partner Tony Relph (REGA = RElph + GAndy).

In 1975, the Planar 2 was introduced and in 1977 was joined by the Planar 3.

To date, over 300,000 Planar 3's have been manufactured and sold in over 25 countries throughout the world. In 1980, Rega had thirteen employees and exported to twelve countries. The company bought an old mill in Westcliff-on-Sea and transformed it into a factory. Other products followed, RB250 and RB300 in 1983, the Bias and Elys cartridges in 1988, Ela speakers in 1989 and the first amplifiers in 1991.

The old mill became more and more cramped until a new factory was constructed in Southend in 1992. The new space enabled Rega to introduce three new models of speakers, an amplifier, a cartridge, a tuner, and most recently, a CD player.

In 1996, Rega has two factories, forty employees, and distributors in thirty countries. Rega's

philosophy is to make high quality products at sensible prices, as a means of reproducing music as faithfully as possible. Rega is committed to the design and development of new and innovative products,

both in hi-fi and other areas, that will perpetuate Rega's values of quality and value for the money.

Turntables

For about 10 years, Roy Gandy wanted to produce a ceramic platter and only recently has technology enabled the use of such spaceage compounds to become economically feasible. A recent partnership between Rega and a company that makes missile nosecones has produced the incredible aluminum oxide ceramic platter, which is the hardest substance known to man apart from diamond. Thus you have the PLANAR 9, Rega's definitive statement in vinyl reproduction.



PLANAR 9

The ceramic platter rests on a hub/spindle assembly made from chrome vanadium, also extremely hard and very smooth. The spindle ends in a sharp point which rests on the bearing. The spindle/point assembly is one integral part, ensuring that the bearing is perfectly centered relative to the spindle. The platter is driven by a synchronous motor via two parallel drive belts. Two belts convey motor torque more efficiently and quickly than one while eliminating the effects of microscopic imperfections in the surface of the rubber.

The PLANAR 9 is supplied with the RB900 tonearm which has a family resemblance to the well known RB300: the same conical shape and integrated headshell. This is the extent of the resemblance. The arm is mounted via three points and the tungsten counterweight is maintained on the arm with Teflon washers. Gone is the black powdercoat finish, which reduces the damping. The bearings have been improved resulting in practically immeasurable tolerances. In conjunction with Klotz, a very low resistance and low capacitance phono lead has been developed which is terminated with Neutrik connectors. The external quartz dual power supply provides a separate oscillator and regulator for both 33rpm and 45rpm. This power supply is adjusted so that the vibration from the motor is reduced close to zero, thus eliminating traditional suspension problems.

The PLANAR 9 is available in blond ash, black and rosewood real wood plinth surrounds. Also, the felt mat is available in a variety of Rega colors.

"P9 sounds very different from my normal Linn/Naim hybrid turn-table system - even better, in some important respects. But whether one or the other is more 'correct' is far less important than the way each expands musical horizons in its own particular way."

— HI FI CHOICE (G.B.) Feb. 96

"Imagine our surprise when we discovered that analog had not aged! Indeed with better quality at a comparable price, the PLANAR 9 wiped the floor with its digital competitors. Far be it for us to engage in a digital v analog debate, but we are duty bound to report what we heard."

— HAUTE FIDELITE (FR.) Nov.95

"The Rega Planar 3 may be the oldest turntable in the test, but it's also street years ahead of the others and shows no signs of ageing at all. It is still one of the record players to beat at any price, with a neutral performance and build quality that others can only aspire to."

— HI FI CHOICE (G.B.) Feb.94

PLANAR 3

Rega's reputation has been built on the success of its turntables. The PLANAR 3 represents a unique achievement of quality, performance, and value for the money. The plinth is dense non-resonant 1" thick MDF covered with a thick layer of black matte veneer. The belt drive system consists of a high-torque, AC synchronous motor and machined pulley which drive the precision-milled belt around a non-resonant polymer inner platter. The platter system is comprised of a 1/2" thick dense glass platter covered by a vibration damping felt mat. The spindle bearing is machined to incredibly high tolerances to ensure smooth rotation. The Planar 3 comes equipped with one of the worlds finest tonearms, the RB300.

Available plinth colors (black standard):



PLANAR 2

For those on a tight budget, Rega's famous low cost turntable is the one to beat. Like the Planar 3, the Planar 2's base is made of MDF with a matte black veneer. The belt drive system has a high torque, AC synchronous motor, and the platter is made of dense glass with a soft felt mat. The Planar 2 comes equipped with RB250 tonearm



PLANAR 78

Similar to the PLANAR 2 but in a 78 speed. A 78 cartridge is also available.

Tonearms

RB900

Improving on what many consider to be the worlds finest tonearm was no easy feat. The RB900 maintains the same conical shape and integrated headshell design of the RB300. A three point mounting design was developed to insure a solid mount to the plinth. A tungsten counterweight has been added as well as bearings with the lowest possible tolerances. In conjunction with Klotz, an extremely low resistance and low capacitance phono lead, terminated with Neutrik connectors, has been developed. The net result is a tonearm with high rigidity, minimal bearing friction, high stability, and low effective mass. A tonearm that many feel is the finest available at any price.

RB300

The RB300 offers smooth operation and superb sound at a surprisingly low price. The RB300 has precision-balanced bearings, resonance controlled tapered armtube, fixed headshell, and damped cuing.

"The Rega offers very good detail, depth, midrange neutrality, ambience, and precision of imaging, almost creeping into class B."

— STEREOPHILE Recommended Components (U.S.)

"I honestly have yet to hear anything in the tone-arm market that makes me want to put the Rega RB300 on the shelf. I'm delighted with it and the (at last count) three friends of mine who I've led toward purchasing Rega's are happy, too. To even the buyers of megabuck arms among you, I feel perfectly comfortable in saying, Buy one of these instead--and spend the rest of the money on records."

— SOUNDS LIKE #5 (U.S.)

RB250

The RB250's one piece arm tube design eliminates the need for extra headshell wire connections, which can degrade performance. The RB250 arm is tapered to cancel inner arm resonances and has precision ground bearings, adjustable anti-skating, and damped cuing.

Digital

PLANET

Those of you who are familiar with our strong preference for analog recordings and formats may find this a contentious development.

However, to accommodate the high demand from our customers as well as the ever increasing

software exclusively available in the digital format and you have the birth of the "PLANET" CD player. We have used the "Rega approach" and built in existing Rega virtues.

Our first objective was to find the correct partners to help us produce the complex parts that no small specialist company can manufacture themselves. We have two major partners. First, Sony who supplies Rega with a unique analog post conversion filter. Secondly, we have been working with Burr Brown for three years to design the unique Rega D to A conversion sound. This is not an "off the shelf" chip, but rather, a chip designed with analog in mind. The PLANET is a small analog oasis in the digital world and will appeal to people who love music but have to or want to listen to the CD medium.



Cartridges

Rega entered the cartridge market in the early 80's and now has four moving-magnet designs. All cartridges are hand made by Rega in house utilizing custom coil winding techniques and ultra-high-precision molded bodies. Because of the design and extremely high tolerances of Rega cartridges, our assembly methods owe more to watch making than the assembly line. Each one is hand built by highly skilled operatives using little more than tweezers and microscopes. The cartridges are adjusted and tested twice over a twenty-four hour period. Such methods are expensive and time consuming, but we feel the results are worth it. We hope you do to.

The Rega cartridge is a one piece moulding. Most cartridges lose high frequency energy by the movements generated in the many joints created in conventional manufacturing. Any glue joint is effectively two joints (component/glue/component). Most cartridges have five or six such joints between the stylus mounting and the cartridge/headshell face. Rega cartridges have none!

Most conventional cartridges have to allow large tolerances when manufactured automatically. A reasonable gap for this technique is about 0.7mm between the moving magnet and the pole pieces. The magnet/pole gap on Rega cartridges is only 0.25mm: much lower than any moving magnet cartridge we have tested.

Don't expect elaborate packaging, glossy literature and superfluous technical data to accompany Rega cartridges. As with all Rega products, you can expect cartridges that are designed to provide the best value at their price-point. The following note accompanies Rega cartridges: Rega has not tried to create a false impression of expense by using elaborate packaging. We have used the most simple and inexpensive carton possible to avoid transit damage, thereby using the savings to spend more on the cartridge itself - ensuring better value.

EXACT

The EXACT shares the same body moulding as the rest of the Rega cartridge line. This is a one piece body and has no energy sapping joints between the stylus mounting and headshell contact face. The EXACT has a highly expensive non removable cantilever, fitted with a "Vital" diamond tip. The headshell face is machined perfectly flat to ensure maximum contact between the cartridge and headshell. Rega has designed and developed its own coil winding machine leading the way to new and innovative techniques in coil winding. Approximately one third less wire is used than in our other cartridges, making the EXACT even more efficient than the ELYS.

"I found myself hurrying to pull out old favorites one after the other, eager to hear them respond to the freshening-up this cartridge seemed ready to give them. The Exact often seemed to bring out the dynamics in a quite unexpected way, and I can only assume that it really is extracting more of the dynamic range on the record."

— HI-FI NEWS & R. R. (G.B.)
Aug. 96

ELYS

The ELYS was specifically designed with the RB300 tonearm in mind, and has a three point mounting system. The sound quality over the BIAS and SUPER BIAS is most apparent with the dynamics and separation between various musical sounds. This is predominately due to the mounting arrangement and the extremely tight tolerance levels.

"Surprisingly strong rhythmic qualities..." "Musically remarkable good..." "It packs a lot of emotion and musical insight into its little magenta heart."

— LISTENER (U.S.) Spring 95

SUPER BIAS

The SUPER BIAS uses the same technology and tolerances as the ELYS, but with a two point mounting system.

"The Super Bias is an honest, no-nonsense cartridge that places musical communication uppermost on its list of priorities. It handles all types of music well but really shines with well-made acoustic recordings."

— WHAT HI-FI? (G.B.) April 93

BIAS

The Rega BIAS has a conventional 0.5" center distance and two hole mounting and will therefore fit all standard tonearms. The overall design makes the BIAS a perfect match for the PLANAR 2.

Accessories

TURNTABLE STAND

Designed specifically for PLANAR turntables, Regas' wall mounted stand incorporates a three point suspension and in most applications is considerably more stable than floor mounted stands.

EQUIPMENT STAND

Based around four 2" steel tubes which screw into each other, the stand enables mixing and matching of equipment. They are available in the standard black powder coat finish and can be special ordered in the following Rega colors: black texture, green, purple, white and yellow.

EAR HEADPHONE ADAPTOR

The EAR has been developed to enable headphone listening through amplifiers designed without a phone jack.

REGA WIRE SPEAKER CABLE

Who said that good speaker cable had to cost a fortune? The REGA WIRE is a multi-stranded flat cable.

"Regas' speaker cable adequately illustrated Rega's view that you shouldn't need to spend huge sums on fancy wire to get good results from a properly designed system."

— HI-FI NEWS (G.B.) Feb. 96

TORQUE WRENCH

We strongly recommend that the Rega TORQUE WRENCH is used to tighten the mounting bolts on all Rega cartridges. After four clicks from the TORQUE WRENCH, all bolts have the same amount of tension.

Loudspeakers

XEL

Rega's flagship loudspeaker, already hailed as best in its class by Hi-Fi Choice, offers exceptional sound quality allied with excellent musical dynamics when incorporated in a system of similar abilities. The XEL was designed to work well in large and difficult rooms, and XEL's will produce tight bass that stays controlled in any environment. This has been achieved without sacrificing the superb mid range and high frequency output. To achieve this balance and control, we have employed a hybrid quarter wave transmission line/sealed box system. The innovative eight-layer voice coil (pat. pend.) in the bass unit and the four-layer voice coil midrange unit eliminate the need for a complex crossover. Available in black ash and rosewood veneer.

ELA

The distinct appearance is powered by great attention to detail. The diffraction pattern on the baffle prevents frequency response changes off axis and therefore the listening position is not as critical. The internal transmission line labyrinth creates a unique quarter wave line design producing low bass resonance, frequency extension & tunefulness. Available in black ash and rosewood veneer. The ELA was given the "best buy award" from HiFi Choice.



EL8

The EL8 is Rega's low price, high performance floorstanding loudspeaker. The EL8 incorporates a comb filter for enhanced bass response. The low frequency unit is produced in house as well as the voice coils and inductors. Available in black ash and walnut veneer.

"The EL8 is a most involving and communicative speaker. It also represents good material value for the money, and clearly deserves Recommendation, especially in the smaller room and system."

— HiFi Choice (G.B.)



KYTE

The KYTE is limited in size but not performance. It characterizes the Rega ideal of high sound quality at an affordable price. Ideal in environments where space is limited, the Kyte performs at it's best when placed on/or against the wall. Wall brackets are available which neatly fix the speaker cabinets to the wall. Hi-Fi Choice named the Kyte as a Best Buy in issue 114. Available in black ash, rosewood and walnut veneer.

"Well finished and attractive veneered cabinets are also among the attractions of the Rega Kyte. This is a speaker for the music analyst; with a highly detailed and clear dissection of midrange and treble detail, the Kytes promote tremendous insight into the musical message."

— HI-FI NEWS & R. R. (G.B.)
Dec. 93



Electronics

BRIO

Rated at 30 watts RMS, the BRIO has been designed to reproduce music effectively and easily. Built to Rega's discriminating standards of reliability and quality to ensure many years of musical enjoyment. Simply switch it on, sit back, and let the Brio speak for itself.

ELEX

Conservatively rated at 50 watts RMS, the Elex works well with a wide variety of speakers, and is able to drive most quite loudly without any signs of strain. The ELEX comes in a surprisingly heavy compact black steel chassis with a ribbed section that acts as a heat sink. Internally, all vital parts - including RCA's - are direct soldered to the board to minimize wires and signal traces, while maximizing performance.

"Upper treble came across sweet, there was a cohesion between bass, midrange, and treble....In summary, the Rega is a fine all-around amp."

— WHAT HI-FI? (G.B.)

ELICIT

The top of the line Rega integrated, the ELICIT is rated at 70 watts RMS. One look inside and you'll discover why the ELICIT sounds so good. The entire amp is dual mono, from the preamp stage to the two oversized twin toroidal transformers. The front panel controls include power on/off, volume, seven touch sensitive switches for input selection, stereo/mono operation, and muting.

*"It's (the Elicit) simply a class act, tidy and controlled, yet also superbly fast and coherent, with more than enough punch in reserve to drive even difficult loads to seriously loud levels." "Verdict: Sound Quality:***** Value for money:*****"*

— HI-FI CHOICE (G.B.)

"A knockout addition to the Rega range. Easy to use and with minimal complications, it delivers radio sound of a very high standard."

"Unpretentious, who needs pretension when it's this good?"

— WHAT HI-FI (G.B.) Nov. 94

Electronic Separates

HAL Remote Control Pre Amp

In common with all Rega products, the HAL has been designed without unnecessary frills. Instead, we have spent our time developing and enhancing our unique circuit design and our money on exceptionally high quality components. The HAL incorporates a fully symmetrical phono pre-amp circuit with a tracking power supply — unique because it is symmetrical at all stages. HAL incorporates both metal film and metal oxide resistors, polypropylene capacitors, a plastic film volume control, as well as Neutrik XLR connectors and Klotz interconnect cable. These are genuine professional quality products and are the best available for the job.

EXS Amplifier

The 70 watt EXS stereo power amplifier builds on the quality and design direction of the ELICIT integrated amplifier. By using the same symmetrical circuit, but making use of the extra area available on the PCB, the EXS employs improved grounding and component separation to create a new step forward in sound quality.

EXON Mono Amplifier

The EXON mono power amplifier takes the circuit concept to its highest level. Employing a toroidal transformer for each power rail, the EXON provides the ultimate amplification and with over 200 watts available, will drive virtually any loudspeaker.

RADIO TUNER

The aptly-named Rega RADIO offers audiophiles on a budget a clear choice in a great-sounding, full-featured AM/FM stereo tuner. The RADIO features a highly accurate digital tuning section, which automatically locks onto the true center of the channel, giving a clear, clean stereo signal. The analog output stage is pure REGA, that is, featuring a minimum of high-quality parts for maximum fidelity, even with marginal broadcasts. The RADIO offers three modes of tuning — manual, automatic, and twenty-four presets.



ABOVE (from top to bottom): Radio, Elicit, Elex, Brio

BELOW: Hal Preamp, Exon Mono amplifiers



INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

	stereophile Rec. Components	HI-FI Choice Recommended	HI-FI Choice Best Buy	WHAT HI★FI?	Diapason D'Or	HI-FI CHOC
PLANAR 2			■	★★★★★	■	
PLANAR 3	■		■	★★★★★	■	
PLANAR 9			■	★★★★★	■	
RB250		■				
RB300	■		■	★★★★★		
BIAS		■				
ELYS			■			
BRIO				★★★★★	■	■
ELEX		■		★★★★★		■
ELICIT		■		★★★★★	■	■
RADIO				★★★★★	■	■
KYTE			■	★★★★★		■
EL8		■		★★★★		■
ELA			■	★★★★★	■	■
XEL			■	★★★★★		

REGA products are precision-crafted in Great Britain. North American distributors are:

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