

Technics service

Richard Talmage, LCGI EngTech TMIET - Qualified service engineer. 13 Sydney St, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0NF, UK.

www.technics-service.co.uk - info@technics-service.co.uk - 07710556857

A word of caution on the Mk7 turntables.

www.technics-service.co.uk

It seems there are quite a few people inadvertently purchasing these as a result of progressive marketing, advertising and endorsements by famous social media influencers. The truth is, these are not a Japanese product as the manufacturing has been outsourced to Malaysia.

This has resulted in many manufacturing defects, most of which cannot be addressed due to the manufacturing processes themselves, so regardless of how new the batch is, the problems remain. These turntables are very different inside, and are aimed at DJs who may be more influenced by marketing practises, than audiophiles who are more inclined to look behind the scenes of such products.

As an independent engineer with over 25 years experience with servicing Technics turntables, I was very disappointed when I was greeted with a mk7 with issues which was brought to me by a client. Everything from the type of plastic used, to the alloy on the platter is of a lower quality than one would expect. The lead-free solder used on the PCBs is the same which is used on many cheap chinese products and will begin to deteriorate in as little as 6 years. The latency and non linearity errors on the digital pitch makes these difficult for most people to mix on, as certainly any digital pitch would never be as accurate as a calibrated analogue pitch on the Mk2 units.

Other known issues are pitch range mis-calibration (even when following the re-set procedure the fault re-appears), Loose tonearm mounts, platter balance misalignment, the list goes on. I get enquiries coming to me all the time through my website which people have voiced their concerns over Mk7 turntables they have purchased, thankfully most are able to return them for a full refund.

If you want a new Technics product, then consider the GR models (so long as they are Japanese models), these have better isolation than the Mk7. The quality is what one would expect from Technics on these GR models and they will last a very long time.

But once again be cautious of the marketing around the Mk7, this is being heavily promoted amongst social media influencers, DJ magazines, bloggers etc and also the 'stockholm syndrome' where users have purchased these models unaware, and cannot get a refund so will be trapped into saying they are superior. The influencers will also try and disregard the GR models as there is more profit to be made from the Mk7.

The best choice by far would be to invest in the original models, because you have the benefit of the analogue pitch, but for those who 'must' have a newer model then the GR model would be the alternative best option. Always listen to us engineers (who also happen to be DJs) and not the profit-driven hype which is what seems to be flooding every social media platform there is.

Richard Talmage, LCGI EngTech TMIET
Technics Service Engineer (Independent)
UK Engineering Council Registration No: 590664.
IET Registration No: 1100173589