



Transrotor Bellini TMD/TRA 9/Figaro

HIGHLY COMMENDED
TURNTABLE



To achieve its main goal of creating the ideal platform for a high-quality arm and cartridge, Transrotor selects high-mass platters for speed stability and vibration damping, and carefully uses mass within the deck's structure, primarily using acrylic. Positioned toward the upper middle of the extensive Transrotor range, the Bellini is a belt-driven, slab-chassis, three-footed design, whereby a substantial aluminium platter is powered by a freestanding motor unit that is situated in a circular cut-out within the plinth and fed by a separate power supply and speed controller. Transrotor's TMD belt-drive decoupling system is particularly special. It uses a two-part subplatter that sits on the bearing shaft, mounted on the chassis, and between the flexibility of the polymer belt and the slight 'float' in the magnetic coupling of these two parts, isolation from motor-induced vibrations is

significant. Transrotor's own TRA9 tonearm is a gimballed design, with hybrid steel and ceramic bearings to ensure optimal breakaway force with low friction, and a two-tube aluminium armwand designed to cancel mutual vibrations through the interaction of the tapered and straight sections. The magnesium-bodied Figaro cartridge, meanwhile, is manufactured by Goldring to Transrotor's specifications.

Goal achieved

Transrotor successfully designed the Bellini TMD to be quick and simple to set up, and the aesthetic and finish of the large thick, transparent acrylic slabs and numerous shiny metal parts are flawless. Happily, the sound matches the visual promises. "The Bellini is prominent, confident, secure, and stable, while skillfully avoiding the typical risk of sounding blocky and dull with high-mass designs," says Steve Dickinson in his review. Its responsiveness to setup and tweaking highlights its inherent neutrality as a platform, too, fulfilling Transrotor's design goal.

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