

TAPE RECORDER

Analog Audio Design TP-1000



It seems like a dive into the past or a slightly offbeat tribute to yesterday's technology.

Presenting a tape recorder in 2022, in the age of the smartphone, connected objects and wireless headphones, may seem totally detached from reality. However, the small company Analog Audio Design, based in Pleumeur-Bodou, in the Côtes-d'Armor region, has taken up the challenge. Its TP-1000, a top-of-the-range model that includes three motors and three heads, works on two tracks at two speeds: 19 cm/s and 38 cm/s. While the unit may look old-fashioned, the technology is modern, as evidenced by a large, easy-to-read digital touchscreen display. An RJ45 Ethernet socket allows remote control and software updates. The TP-1000 is equipped with a 6.35mm headphone output and front panel volume control and is available in two versions. The "Gold Edition" features a solid aluminium finish. massif.

Price : 34 000 €
(Gold Edition)

Dimensions (L x H x P) :
46,6 x 51,9 x 30,5 cm

Weight : 28 kg

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LISTEN

It was with a mixture of curiosity and, let's admit it, some scepticism that we went to Acoustic Gallery, rue Gounod, in Paris, where the TP-1000 was presented in the presence of its designer Christophe Martinez. The price of the device and of the recorded tapes (between 250 € and 600 €) reserves this type of listening for a passionate public. The tapes listened to, normally copied from the master tapes, are supposed to be as close as possible to the original source, to the sound produced in the studio, not yet subject to the interventions involved in making the record. It didn't take long to appreciate the fullness of the sound, the musical fluidity and the disarmingly natural nuanced reproduction. Serge Gainsbourg's mythical album Melody Nelson reveals a multitude of details that give the impression of being in the recording studio: the placement of the voices in front of the microphones, the wide sound spectrum of the electric guitars, the breadth and articulation of the bass line, the mixing and superimposition of these different tracks, the presence, quite simply, of the

musical reality in the listening room. Another revealing listening is that of Kalinnikov's Symphony No. 1 by Kondrashin with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, recorded in the early 1960s. Melodiya recordings have never been praised as models of accuracy, precision, generosity and technical performance. On this tape, which has undoubtedly been taken from the original recording, this Russian sound appears with a sharpness and density that was not previously known. Proof that the transfers were never done properly and that the entire Melodiya catalogue deserves to be completely and carefully reissued. The stereophonic image, the arrangement of the music stands, the specificities of the Russian orchestras of the time (the vibrato of the brass in particular) and the linearity appear in a new clarity. Thanks to the transfer, of course, but also to the device that reads the tape. Such an experience is obviously exceptional and a little out of the ordinary, but it raises real questions for the music lover.

Pros : direct connection to music

Cons : Price ?