

# FURUTECH

Stereophile

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Analog Corner Accessory Review

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## ANALOG CORNER

2oz bottle costs \$41; 8oz, \$148.50; 16oz, \$246.

### Furutech DFV-1 Disc Flattener: a stand-up disc-flattening device

Speaking of underground idiots, after favorably reviewing Air Tight's disc-flattening device (\$2250) in June 2004, I got flamed online and in e-mails from those who claimed the device deformed the grooves of their records. Evidently I was an \$##\*@\$\*, and an effing one at that. All I know is that I used the Air Tight as directed and it worked as promised.

Now Furutech has introduced the DFV-1 Disc Flattener, a similar product that improves on the Air Tight's ergonomics by standing up like the pants presses found in better hotel rooms. With a footprint of about 17" by 7" (probably Shaq's footprint), it



Furutech's Disc Flattener is *not* vertically challenged.

takes up much less floor space than the horizontally configured Air Tight, and costs a lot less: \$1480.

Any fears I had that gravity would cause a record's grooves to "droop" on being heated were allayed after I'd treated the new 180gm pressing of Spoon's latest album, *Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge MRG295), which arrived

in my mailbox on a particularly hot summer day. (Yes, I have an LP-sized mailbox.) The warped record came out of the Furutech oven *flat*, its grooves undamaged.

To use the DFV-1, you screw together the two halves of a small round record clamp through the record hole, unclip and open the hinged plate, insert the clamp into a hole in the flattening plate inside (thereby securing the record vertically), close the hinge, attach the clips, and press

the Mode button. A small LCD screen keeps you apprised of the proceedings, which take two and a half hours to complete (1.5 hours heating, 1 cooling). The Mode button blinks red when the disc is ready to be removed.

Furutech recommends that you don't use your most valuable LP on your first try. Instead, they suggest using

one "of no value." If you're unsatisfied with the results, they accept "no liability." You are specifically warned *not* to try to flatten LPs that lack groove guards—such as Classic's 200gm LPs and a few others—a higher-than-normal percentage of which suffer from warps. Too bad. Fortunately, future 200gm LPs from Classic *will* have groove guards—but then, they'll therefore be less likely to warp in the first place.

Furutech can't be blamed for their warnings and disclaimers—record flattening is never a foolproof process. However, I decided to flatten some valuable, slightly warped LPs, such as an original Audio Fidelity pressing of *Satchmo Plays King Oliver* (ASFD 5930). The DFV-1 worked perfectly: flat surfaces, no deformed grooves. A test pressing of Cisco's recent reissue of Tchaiko-



Furutech's deStat and a vintage Zerostat

vsky's *Serenade for Strings*, performed by Charles Munch and the Strings of the Boston Symphony (RCA Living Stereo LSC-2105), came with slightly wavy edges. After a session with the DFV-1, it was *flat*.

I found the DFV-1 Disc Flattener effective for banishing warps from LPs. Like Air Tight's, it won't cure

serious pressing-defect deformations—the kind that make the stylus jump from the groove and vacuum hold-down systems balk. Those records are best thrown away, or played once with an expendable cartridge at a high tracking force and recorded.

Remember: Even if a warped record plays well and you hear no warp/wow, when you see those woofers pumping, that means the warp is sucking and wasting enormous amounts of amplifier power. Unless you have vast reservoirs of power, the sound will be compromised.

### Zerostat 3 Milty & Furutech deStat SNH-2

Winter's dry air causes static electricity to build up in spinning discs, as do both vacuum record cleaning and, as I found