

## Extremephono None-Felt Mat

Extremephono is conceived as an ultimate quest for music perfection. First and foremost, products that satisfy our own musical quests: accurate, dynamic, air, speed, transparency, and frequency extension, better and cheaper. Unlike some audiophile products, Extremephono products are designed to be easy to use, environmentally friendly, and reasonably priced.

Sound (compared to felt): Details that never before heard emerge effortlessly. Extension goes higher and deeper. The macro dynamics grow stronger, yet the micro-dynamics are clearly delineated and startlingly real. Percussion, voice, and instruments have impact, body, but the micro-dynamics that tracks with no lag and no overhang makes the music alive. The improvement is close to a cartridge upgrade, with the tonality remains unchanged from the original felt mat. It does not bring fatigue, does not elevate the high-frequency as a false-sense of air and detail. Relax and listen into the inner detail, the melody, and the timing (i.e. PRAT).

### **Features**

- Static-controlled material. It creates a grounding conduit for static to dissipate. Works well in high-dryness region where records like to cling to the mat.
- Tacky and non-slip. It remains stable on the platter, just be careful changing records without stopping, you need to lift the record faster, if not, the friction between LP/mat/platter can stop the spin.
- Flat surface. Felt mat is not exactly flat, and the wool bumps up the record surface with irregularities.
- Washable. Easily cleaned using regular record care products.

Having no contact with the spindle, the Donut Mat prevents micro-mechanical vibration from the stylus to react with the bearing. The Standard Mat is suitable for the traditionalist, as well as people not feeling comfortable without a spindle to center the mat and recommended to use with turntable without a metallic (conductive) platter.

Thickness of the mat is 3mm, approximates the Linn felt mat, and slightly thicker than Rega's. However, slight adjustments to VTA, VTF, and even anti-skating could refine the improvements.

For turntables without mat or with acrylic platters may benefit from adding a buffer to prevent some microscopic energy reflecting to the stylus, for static control, as well as preventing dust from being pushed into soft vinyl surface.

### **Static control and turntable grounding (ONLY if you have static problem)**

The Non-felt mat can serve as a conduit to discharge electrostatic from the vinyl surfaces. In a typical turntable system, the grounding is via the tonearm ground wire connected to the preamp. The mat must directly or indirectly conduct static from vinyl to this ground wire: for turntables such as Linn LP12 that has a metal platter, the grounding is effective, but for turntables such as Rega that has non-metal platter, the Standard Non-felt mat may provide a more continuous connection from the mat surface, via spindle, to the ground. However, if you do not have static problem do not worry about this issue, as the donut mat sounds better than the standard mat.

## Instruction and Notes on fine-tuning and adjustment

Due to improvement in accuracy and fidelity, the tonearm may be adjusted for optimal performance. Extremephono recommends keeping identical tonearm VTF and anti-skating settings initially, and just optimize the VTA to compensate for the 3mm height. Once the correct VTA is established, below are some suggestions:

- 1) Lowering the VTF by 0.1g - the felt mat is not flat, and the cartridge has to track 'harder'. With the Non-felt mat, the cartridge can track at a lower VTF and reduce wear to both stylus and vinyl.
- 2) Use 'Static' balancing for VTF. Linn, Rega, and most other tonearms use dynamic VTF via an internal spring loading mechanism. With the improved resolution of Non-felt Mat, reducing the dynamic VTF, or total elimination may improve the sound. To utilize 'static balancing', reduce the tracking force by adjusting the dial to 0 or half of the preferred VTF settings, re-adjust the counterweight and use a stylus force gauge to regain proper VTF. For Rega 300/600/900 arm, the 'Null' point for static balancing is 3.0g (RB250 has factory static VTF). For uni-pivot arms with damping fluid or setting, try reducing the original damping setting by 50%.
- 3) When changing records: after placing the vinyl, give a light push or tap on the record label, this pushes down the vinyl to contact with the mat firmly to give the best sonic performance.
- 4) For a rigorous cleaning, wash the mat with kitchen detergent in water, let dry, and rinse/wipe with record cleaner, such as VPI liquid or Discwasher liquid to remove any manufacturing residue or contaminants that may be resulted from the handling and transit, as well as dust accumulation. For light cleaning, just rinse/wipe with record cleaner.

## Special notes

We recommend not leaving un-played record on the None-felt mat for long hours:

The Extremephono None-Felt mat seems to have compatibility issues with Nitty Gritty record cleaner (the fluid, not the hardware). If you are using Nitty Gritty record cleaning fluid, make sure no fluid residue gets to the None-Felt mat. Otherwise, the None-Felt material may be broken down. If you are using Nitty Gritty fluid and need detail information, please [e-mail](#). There is no known problem with any other cleaning fluids.

1. It is never a good idea to 'store' record on turntable platter, as record should be stored vertically in its sleeve;
2. Residue from alcohol or alcohol-based record cleaner can break down and soften the resin or plasticizers used to stabilize record and may attack the None-felt mat;
3. None-felt mat may have low level of vinyl oil used for mold-release agent during manufacturing process. The vinyl oil is harmless to records, but extended contact may transfer oily residue to the record surface. The vinyl oil will gradually evaporates over time (faster with washing).

## Contact Informatie

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