

# Building A Plinth For The Technics SP-10

[http://de.geocities.com/bc1a69/turtable\\_eng.html](http://de.geocities.com/bc1a69/turtable_eng.html)

A good plinth for your deck is a must, it should be dense, heavy so it will damp the deck's resonances. Back in the 70s few cared about that so most plinths from that time may look good but sonically they're a medium disaster. But for most Denons, Technics or Sony decks you can easily fix this by removing the motor from the original plinth and build a better one. Take the original as a template for your own massive construction...

## Materials For Plinths Are:

### MDF

MDF plinths have their own sonic fingerprint as MDF tends to damp higher frequencies more than lower frequencies - so quite often the result is kind of dull and "closed in" sounding. MDF may give good results when combined with other materials like some sort of metal. A MDF-Alu sandwich combines the advantages of both materials but it's hard to work with and very expensive. However MDF is quite cheap and easy to work with.

### Corian

Corian is a material developed by Dupont France for kitchen-benches. It's a composite that comes in an almost granite-looking surface and consists aluminium flakes. The more aluminium (bigger flakes) is in corian the better for your plinth. Sonically for many people corian seems to be the ticket. For my taste plinths made out of Corian tend to sound a bit too laid back, sometimes even a little lifeless. Drawbacks are the finish (not my taste...), high price, and the fact that corian is only available in quite thin sheets.

### Birch-plywood

Birch-plywood is a standard-material for building a good quite neutral sounding plinth. It's not cheap, but sonically quite ideal, easy to work with and easy to get at your local lumber yard. Birch-plywood can be veneered or painted so the result will please your eyes (and that of your wife) too.

### Hardwood like mahogany, cherry, maple

These are woods musical instruments are built from. Mahogany seems to sound more pronounced in the bass whereas maple is more brilliant. You can get excellent results with hardwood plinths if you chose a wood that fits to the sonics of your deck (your system, your taste...). The major drawback is the fact that it's not that easy to get pieces that big and they're very expensive.

### Marble, Stone, Obsidian

Stone and marble has minimal damping-properties but it is very dense and has high weight. The sonics of stone-plinths are not to my taste. Obsidian (artificial stone) is a little better here. Anyway - expensive, and you need a specialist that builds one for you.

## A Short Description Of Building A Massive Plinth Made Out Of Ply:

Get 20mm (0,75") thick sheets of birchply at your local lumberyard who might cut it to the right dimensions. Usually your plinth will be at minimum that thick as your deck (80-120mm / 3"-4") so you know how many sheets you need. The thicker your plinth will be the heavier it is and heavy is never wrong. Width and depth of your plinth is defined by the size of your deck, and the tonearm you want to mount on the deck (9", 10", 12"). Round the centre (armbearing) of your arm you should calculate a circle of at least 70mm (4") diameter so you're able to fix the arm easily. Leave at least 30mm (1,25") of wood to all necessary cutouts. Now cut out the top-shelf according to your deck - a template is very good to have - with your jig-saw. Then put in your deck to see whether everything fits and mark the distance of the effective tonearm-length measured from the spindle on the shelf. This is the

centre of the tonearm-hole. You should leave at least 50mm (2") wood between the tonearm-hole and the cutout for the turntable. That means you might run into problems with some decks like the Technics SP-10 if you use a short (9") arm, the arm centre then has to move to the front. By the way if you want to mount an SME3009 with a Technics SP-10 the SME-cutout hole must face straight-forward. Now cut out the arm-hole in the top-shelf with a diameter between 20-35mm (0,75"-1,4") depending on your arm.



Now take the top-shelf as a template for the other shelves. Keep in mind that the tonearm-hole on all other shelves should have a diameter of at least 70mm (4") that you're able to mount the nut to the tonearm's shaft afterwards. Keep in mind too, that many decks need less air goin downwards, so the deck's cutout can (and should) be smaller the lower you get. And keep in mind that with decks like the SP-10 where the nuts are tightened from the underside of the deck you have to leave space for the nuts, as you might want to be able to screw them after you're finished. It's quite good for the last one or two shelves to be left without a cutout as that puts even more weight to your plinth but remember that you might need to remove them if you want to change your tonearm or the deck itself - so don't glue them screw them... The other shelves are glued together, then after sanding the whole thing your plinth is ready for veneering or painting.

Here you see a Technics SP-10 with SME 312 arm in such a plinth. The - satisfied - owner of the deck sended me the photos after completing his work.



In the Kaneta article you can see a different approach for building a plinth for a stripped off Technics SP-10.