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Clearaudio Cartridge Charisma V2

## That certain something ...

We received from Clearaudio, the southern vinyl specialist, has the latest MM cartridges system called Charisma V2. Since Clearaudio MM-System (Maestro V2) has left a very good impression, the question arises immediately: „More pickups do not really need it at all – or ...“ Clearaudio calls the „new“ charisma V2. The name of this label therefore already indicates that this is a type with „special charisma“. This is directly to the top of the MM pickups of the manufacturer from Erlangen.

### From the kit

Clearaudio, of course, has an extensive, analogue model program, as only a few manufacturers (and not only

for the pickups). And so they used the much higher-priced models of the MC pickups and created from the different materials a new MM-Topsystem. The “Erlangener” took their own shelves and built the doubly polished Bor / Micro HD needle carrier from the ultimate Clearaudio Goldfinger statement into a plane carrier. This very hard and age-resistant wood comes as a complementary material with a nickel silver strip. Therefore it is not surprising that his weight is a solid nine grams. Thus, the scanner is an ideal play partner for the mechanical masterpiece of a Clearaudio universal tone arm from my point of view. The manufacturer even recommends the combination. It is a good thing that I have used this arm for years as a robust tool on the



Clearaudio drive Innovation. Is there just an analogous dream combination here? The use of extremely powerful magnets gives the Charisma V2 a record-high output voltage of 3.6 mV (at 5 cm / s). The system-typical load resistance of 47 kOhm with a capacitive load of 100 pF is in any case no opponent in the connection to the phono amplifier. Considering the capacity of the connection cable, typically a total impedance of 150 to 200 pF – an optimal value for MM pickups! The stated bearing force is a solid 2.4 g. I do not belong to the people with a notorious screw clamp, so the assembly of a pickup is not really a beloved procedure. In the case of the Charisma V2, however, I must note that it can be mounted very quickly. Finely machined threads in the housing allow secure adjustment by means of Allen screws; aligned in terms of overhang, the system is almost automatic anyway. And to adjust the tone arm accordingly, is rather a joyful feeling – it is also fast. „Burnt“ is the pickup with me with the ORB Audio CRE-2. This cartridge pickup is put by me three times à 15 minutes under new pickups and already the annoying running is done. As an alternative, Clearaudio offers a „break-in test record“ with which a recording time of about 100 hours can be reduced to a considerably shorter time with a new pickup. As is often the case with our hobby, a pickup system usually only sounds really good after a certain playing time. Typically this takes up to 100 hours – when normal LPs are used for playing. Much faster is the special LP. You do not need to listen to it now, but whoever is on it can get pink noise in the endless grooves (tracks 5,6,7,9,10,11), alternatively a sine sweep (sliding frequency) 20 Hz up -20.000 Hz for the test of a pickup (track 3) or the empty groove without signal (300 sec.). A (if necessary) optimized setting of the anti-clocking force is made with the help of the tracks 8 and 12. And the sinus signal at 316Hz with continuously changing phases causes a change of the sampling in the diamond in the repetition from a horizontal movement to a vertical movement. So better adjust a small volume level, leave the listening room and return the next day.



### Tonales

Of course, I am almost curbed by the curiosity of the sound merits of Charisma V2 – I know and appreciate the Maestro V2 very much. Clearaudio also owns his own label and from this production I hear a 180 gram LP by Klaus Jäckle entitled „Träumerei“. So I had already started the musical journey at the Maestro V2 test. And even then, „everything was good“ in the reproduction and now the charismatic pickup system, which I am pleased to describe here, spreads a further and more precise sound carpet in front of me, which simply impresses me in its entirety by successive tones. I like MM pickups – perhaps it is because I grew up with the principle of „moving magnets“, I can not justify this passion. In this pickup principle, a small iron part is moved near reels with iron core, and the magnetic circuit is excited by a permanent magnet. Due to the change in the spacing of the iron parts, a change in the magnetic flux is produced in the coils, which leads to an induction voltage. Typically, such pickups produce higher signal voltages than electrodynamic systems (MC pickups) because the coil can have a high number of turns due to the less restricted mass. This is only incidental to the fundamental differences in the pickup. The exceptionally high output voltage of the Charisma V2 I had mentioned at the beginning beautifully – here it becomes technically understandable. Clearaudio has – in simple terms – connected the best magnets with one of the best needles or carriers, put the construct in a rigid body and the result can be heard more than! Well, it is not that easy, but frankly, I do not care – I want to be as high as possible, as affordable as possible, listen to music – and we are on the right track with this pickup version. I switch to the Manger test vinyl disc after the first page of the LP and hear the „full chiming“ of the bells from

the Martin Luther church at Gütersloh. There are only three bells with hands and feet according to traditional rules of the rhythm and melodies by pulling, hitting and releasing. They are placed in a harness of ropes and belts, to play with their help. The bells sound like a melody in the sound of their melodies and their radiance. „Gottlob free of distortions“ I myself notice – this observation serves however immediately as proof of the correct assembly.

The first test is now complete, now the music has to flow and I simply go through the A-side. By the way, the voices and noises of the next radio play of the SWR „the skies covers everything with silence“ are also highlighted. „My dear man!“ goes through my head ... I change the vinyl and put on one of my classic favorites: Gustav Mahler's Symphony No.2, a DECCA recording with Georg Solti and the London Symphony Orchestra from 1966. At this point, I save the detailed list of the individual sound passages and describe the holistic experience with „... for a MM pickup incredibly good!“

The duo with Chris is from the series of the „studio concerts“ of the Bauer studios in Ludwigsburg Gall & Bernhard Schimpelsberger as an analogue guest on the record player. A musically very direct recording, which was done with a Revox Studer A820. Drums and a Steinway grand piano – reduced to the tonal essentials. Exactly this scenery, the Charisma V2 is enormously goose-skinned! Especially the presentation of the fine Beckentöne succeeds it perfectly. Away from the reduced sound – to the radiant Cologne big-band sound. The drummer Mokhtar Samba combines the language of jazz with African elements and arranger Michael Mossmann ensures the practical live realization of the musical leitmotiv at the big band of the WDR in Cologne. It can already be guessed from the description – a lot of sound, a lot of tones and they are fetched from the charisma V2 space filling and above all authentic from the groove and pointed out. This pickup system is intended to give the whole thing its own charm, which is never superficial or imposed. The wide and precisely drawn rooms and the extremely dynamic reproduction of the sounds in their natural spectrum is precisely the specialty of this wonderful MM pickup. A system for connoisseurs and friends of the black-hearted fraction with an absolute claim – it is incredibly fast becoming accustomed to this expression of an „intensive binding quality“.



### To the point

The Clearaudio Charisma V2 represents the current feasibility of the MM pickup systems in the market and shows that the good old technique of „moving magnets“ is anything but old. „The certain something“ is, however, much more than the name implies. The Clearaudio Charisma V2 is quite simply ingeniously good and fits perfectly on this drive and this tone arm!

### Information

MM Pickup Clearaudio Charisma V2

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