

Hi-fi news Letters

Correspondents express their own opinions, not those of *Hi-Fi News*. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication. Correspondents using e-mail are asked to give their full postal address (which won't be published).

Letters seeking advice will be answered in print on our Q&A pages, but due to time constraints we regret we're unable to answer questions on buying items of hi-fi or any other hi-fi queries by telephone, post or via email.

Send in your views on all things hi-fi to: Letters, Hi-Fi News, Leon House, 233 High Street, Croydon CR9 1HZ or send your views to: hi-finews@ipcmedia.com – please name your email 'Letters'

MUTINY ON DECK

TURNTABLE REVIEW HAS READER IN A SPIN



Mr Kessler, I am not going to 'kvetch' about the cost of the Clearaudio turntable, or its inclusion as a review item last month. It may be worth its asking price; I would only add that any product is only worth what a buyer will pay for it, but as 30 are on order, this doesn't seem to be an issue. You complain that the British won't buy such an expensive item, when they will buy supercars. I think you are wrong. I doubt if more than 2% of *Hi-Fi News* readers could even contemplate a £55,000 turntable.

Similarly, the same 2% of Mondeo-driving Autocar readers could afford a supercar. It's just that a lot more people read auto magazines and buy cars, so many more Ferraris are bought. In any case, it is a little difficult to buy a piece of kit that isn't yet available for audition in the UK.

My problem with the article is your recurring contempt for your readership. So we are miserly shysters, squeezing poor hi-fi dealers till the pips squeak while their angelic children are shoved up the nearest chimney with a brush. The usual follow up to this is that we have a great set of independent hi-fi dealers in this country who are being driven out of business by our outrageous behaviour and when they are gone, it will jolly well serve us right. I happen to agree we have a wonderful selection of dealers in this country. But if their survival requires your readership to rush out and replace the Mark 1 amp with the Mark 2 every year then they will have to fail. I don't think they are that threatened though.

So why do you need to show your obvious distaste for your readers? One day Mr Kessler, you may have the readership your deathless prose deserves. Meanwhile, you will just have to make do with the cheap chisellers you have got, stuck in our 1950s time warp.

David Wise, e-mail

