

Woodpicker

Reading Channa Vithana's article about the beauty of wood used in various bits of hi-fi kit, and looking at the Wand tonearm photos reminded me that back in the nineteen sixties, I recall a pickup arm manufacturer using wood. I can't recall the name of the company involved, but in my mind's eye I see something along the lines of the Connoisseur range from that period (SAU1/SAU2)?

I imagine that the progress made with carbon-fibre over the years makes such designs redundant, but can also envisage how beautiful an arm of this type could look. Do you recall who made this arm and are there any other examples?

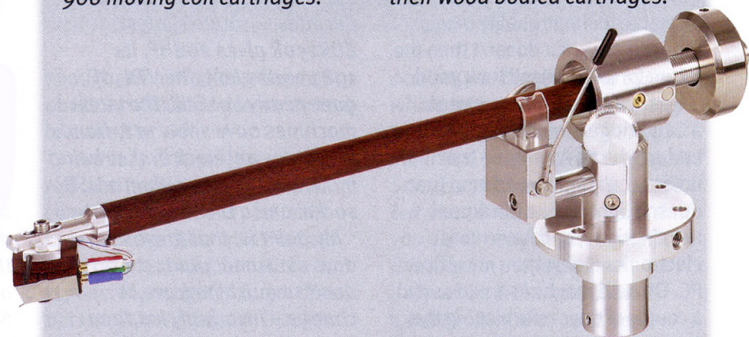
Roger Nicholls

MS says: I suspect you are thinking of the Grace 714 unipivot. Grace tonearms, especially the 'normal' G707, were a popular choice for the early Linn Sondek LP12 turntables, along with Supex 900 moving coil cartridges.

Grado also produced a tonearm called the Micro Control, I believe, with a wooden 'wand' section. Please note that neither this nor the Grace model is available new nowadays, although they do crop up on eBay.

The European-produced Reed P3 tonearm, which is available with a choice of different, exotic wooden arm tubes though UK distributor GTAudio, is about the only currently commercially available arm using wood in its construction of which I know.

CV says: Clearaudio, which I mentioned in the column, uses Panzerholz plywood in its turntables – and also does a range of tonearms called Satisfy that are nicely designed and made, and come in a variety of arm tube configurations which include aluminium, carbon fibre, and also ebony or satiné wood, the latter being particularly fetching and similar in hue to some of their wood bodied cartridges.



Organic audio: wood you buy a Clearaudio Satisfy?