

The Wand 14-4 Master Turntable

Witchdoctor Magazine NZ March 13 2024; review by Andrew Baker

<https://witchdoctor.co.nz/2024/this-turntable-runs-on-batteries-and-sounds-incredible/>



How to make an already great turntable even better? In my opinion, the 14-4 Turntable was already well qualified in the vibration control department. This was no after-thought, rather it is part of the design. A battery-powered turntable is a cool – perhaps even novel – idea. Sonically speaking, any improvements or differences, on paper at least, are surely likely to be subtle only.

I started proceedings listening to *Wall of Eyes* (2024, XL Recordings), the excellent new album from **The Smile**. I did in fact quite quickly perceive a quieter background and clearer note edges and image definition than that which I had previously been accustomed to. There were certainly no downsides. The presentation was large – wall-to-wall and three-dimensional – with exceptional layering of sounds and placement perception of instruments. There was an abundance of tonal colour and micro and macro dynamics were simply splendid. The kick drum and lower bass notes were tight and propulsive, stopping in an instant. Most of these qualities were to be expected but I did feel a heightened awareness of leading-edge clarity – and bass had a slightly more natural character.

The original 14-4 is a marvellous piece of engineering that, as I have probably said *ad nauseum*, sounds even better than it looks, and I am one proud owner. The new Master version is like the frosting on the audiophile cake – the kind everyone wants to eat and relish, not the kind that gets scraped off and binned.

It is wonderful to see the amount of effort that has gone into the 14-4 all in order to make the listening experience for the end user that much more enjoyable. I regard the 14-4 Master a worthy upgrade over the original, both in style and performance.