

The Absolute Statement

When you drive to the eastern part of the Netherlands, you will reach the city of Hengelo, home of the famous turntable brand called Pluto Audio. Pluto is a product for connoisseurs. For those who share the knowledge about the best possible analog reproduction. Pluto turntables are much sought after but very scarce. Until now, only forty were build and found their way to rich customers in mainly the Far East. Some of them were sold in the United States and in Europe. The factory in Hengelo isn't particularly a place comparable with a clean, large and efficient production line, with daily output figures running into the tens. Although there's enough sophisticated equipment to build a Joint Strike Fighter, the birth of a new Pluto turntable is a work of art and handcrafting. It takes three months to build a turntable in a process of meticulous and painstaking micro labor. Owner Eddy Driessen is a very dedicated person. Many years ago he started with his famous wooden tone arms. These wonderful pieces of craftsmanship found broad acceptance among the audiophile community. The evolutionary step from tone arms to turntables made sense and a new struggle towards perfection started. Today, it still goes on. Eddy never rests in searching for new advanced materials and new applications. As a spin off from his daily technical job, he's able to acquire expensive engineering materials and learn a lot about their behavior and appliances. The micro bearings in the modern Pluto tone arms are examples of applying valuable materials and fitting them together under a micro tolerance strategy. Of course, under high market demand, Eddy found some solutions for outsourcing polishing and the production of the heavy parts. The platter and the triangle, acting as the turntable's plinth, are in a rough form produced on an outside location. It saves time and probably some labor costs. But, the main job is still the handwork one. Especially building and assembling the tone arms is pretty time consuming. Basically, the turntable models 10 and 11 are building upon a triangle resting on cones. A sub chassis containing the tone arm, the diamante bearing and the platter is mounted on the triangle. The platter is belt driven by an outside motor. The 10 is RVS and the 11 is the all titanium version. The 12 is a new aluminum turntable and is the lowest in the price range. Several tone arms are available. The new 2A is a real through bred. It succeeds the former wooden tone arm. The 2A can be delivered in several natural woods. Inside the tone arm is gold wire as the ultimate solution. Alternatives are silver or copper wires. The newest tone arms can be fitted with a sophisticated VTA adjustment which is applicable during play back. Listening to a Pluto is a delight. It's like approaching the ultimate frontier in analog reproduction. As a customer, you will be responsible for at least a part of the performance. A Pluto will ask you for a top notch cartridge and it won't be a shame to connect the turntable to the finest playback equipment you can find. Ultimately your reward will bring you far beyond today's digital reproduction.

Eddy Driessen