



...owner's manual

DUO CD3.1

INSTRUCTIONS. Upon opening the box, you will find an ACCESSORIES BOX. It should contain the following:-

Stabiliser
Mains Lead
Remote Control
Batteries for above
Optical Blanking Plug
Coaxial Lead

If anything is missing, please contact your dealer.

THE DUO CD3.1 Continuing the fine tradition of Micromega's two-box Duo players, the **CD3.1** is a transport of very high quality using the Philips CDM9 laser mechanism. Though it is set at a price level significantly below that of the CD2 range, much time has been devoted to striking the ideal balance between increased ease of use whilst retaining the famous Micromega musicality.

It is our intention that any purchaser should be able to obtain from any Micromega product, the full performance potential expected. To this end, we have divided the instruction manual into two distinct sections, **BASIC** and **ADVANCED**.

BASIC deals with getting your new purchase safely into your system, and we would recommend that even experienced users give it at least a cursory glance before proceeding to the next section of the manual. **ADVANCED** will help you realise the full performance inherent in every Micromega.

If there are any questions that you feel are unanswered, please contact your retailer. Rest assured, they will be only too pleased to assist.

BASIC STEPS.

- 1 Carefully check the outside of the carton for any obvious damage. It should have none.
- 2 Very carefully remove the unit, taking care to preserve all the packing. It is a good idea to put it all in a large plastic bag and deposit it somewhere safe and dry – if the unit ever needs to be sent away it will need to be in its original cartons, correctly packaged. *Never* send it anywhere other than in the proper cartons and with the correct packing materials. Failure to do so may well invalidate your warranty.

- 3 Carefully remove the suspension transit bolts, and place them in the storage slots provided on the rear of the transport. The bolts are situated on the top plate of the CD3.
- 4 The foot at the rear of the player is not a foot at all, it is the cover for a steel spike. In order for the unit to sit level, this cover must be removed. The surface the player is to sit on must be perfectly level. The significance of the spike will become evident later, in the **ADVANCED** section of the manual.
- 5 Check that the mains voltage on the carton corresponds to your local power supply. Next, plug the mains lead into the rear of the player and then the wall socket.
- 6 Connect the transport, by way of the co-axial lead supplied, to the appropriate input on your DAC. For connection of the DAC to the amplifier, refer to the appropriate manual.
- 7 Power the unit up by depressing the on/off button – which is, in fact, a standby switch. All good electronics sound superior when running at optimum temperature. Whenever it is possible, switch all your hi-fi on well before a listening session to ensure adequate warm-up. Indeed, if you are confident about your installation (ventilation etc) there is no reason to switch-off your player at all. The player will light up, displaying the word **disc** in the window.
- 8 Lift the hinged cover and place a disc on the spindle. Place the stabiliser weight on top of the disc, ensuring it is central, then gently close the lid. The disc will spin for a few seconds, while the player reads the **TOC** (table of contents), then it will stop.
- 9 Press **Play** and adjust the volume from **Zero**.
- 10 Tracks can be selected from the comfort of your listening position by using the remote control or front fascia switches.
- 11 ENJOY!

KEYBOARD FUNCTIONS

Play	to start disc, or to restart track. Also used to restart after pause.*
Stop	once to stop track, twice to cancel all programme information.
Next	to go directly to next track.
Prev	to go directly to previous track.
On/Off (standby)	turns the digital and audio circuits full on.
Time	to change LED display. Indicates track numbers or time elapsed.

There are thus no fast scan, program, repeat or direct track access controls to clutter up the simple fascia. All these secondary functions can be obtained from the remote control.

* NB. When in pause mode, remember that the laser is switched on. As regards the overall life of the laser, it is the same as if you were playing a disc..

TO PROGRAM. By using the **S** (Store) key on the remote, in conjunction with the track number you can program the machine to play a disc in any order you wish, up to a maximum of 20 tracks. NB. You can not have the same track on a programme more than once.

METHOD

- 1 After **TOC** display has appeared on the fascia, select track number from the remote to start your programme selection. Press **S** and the legend 'Program' will appear on the display.
- 2 Repeat procedure using the **Direct Track Access** keys on the remote, ensuring that 'Program' appears each time, to indicate acceptance of the track.
- 3 You can review your selection by repeatedly pressing the **S** key. When listening to a programmed disc, the **Next** and **Prev** keys act on the programme listing, not that of the original disc. Pressing **Stop** once on the remote will stop the track but not wipe the programme. A second press *will* fully clear all programming information.

CARE OF YOUR MICROMEGA PLAYER.

Your Micromega Duo CD3.1 transport is a highly sophisticated piece of engineering, built to withstand the rigours of everyday use. A minute or two spent studying these precautions will ensure that your player continues to give you pleasure for many years to come.

- 1 The acrylic cover should not be cleaned with anything remotely abrasive. Polishes containing silicone should be likewise avoided, as the oil migrates and can affect electrical contacts. It is permissible to use proprietary foam-type cleaners sparingly, but really just breathing on the lid and gently rubbing with a soft, lint-free cloth should be all that is needed. Solvents must never be applied to the cover. *Always* protect the lens if using a spray *anywhere* on or near the transport.
- 2 *Do not* use any sprays on the top-plate. The laser assembly is both delicate and exposed. Dust should be no problem if the lid is kept closed. *Very* careful dusting with a small, soft, brush (such as a camera-lens type) is OK, but brush only away from the head assembly.
- 3 *Do not* attempt to clean the laser head. There are some dedicated cleaning devices manufactured by reputable companies. Proper use of these is entirely at your discretion.
- 4 Please *do not* open the casing. Whilst we are very proud of the quality of our internal construction, not only could you do expensive damage to your purchase, but the harm to yourself could be irreparable. Electricity can be lethal. If anything should need to be done, see your authorised Micromega dealer.
- 5 If you are using the coaxial interconnection on your Duo (as we would recommend), please insert the optical blanking plug in the optical output of the player to prevent dust contamination of the socket.

ATTENTION – It is vital that no Micromega is switched on when connected to an amplifier with the volume up. Our machines have no audio attenuation on the mains switch, to avoid the significant compromise in sonic performance that would otherwise result. Failure to observe this simple precaution could well result in damage to your loudspeakers. It is, in any case good practice to turn the volume to ZERO or use MUTE when switching between sources.

ADVANCED SECTION. This part of the manual will address is some of the design considerations, and their natural consequences, which feature in the construction of our players.

First of all, please be assured that in order to get the desired results from a Micromega, no arcane rituals are demanded; no snake-oil need be applied. You can pretty well drop them into your system, turn them on and expect real music. But it may help you to know what problems we were dealing with when we designed the units, and why we took certain decisions...

PLATFORMS. The Duo CD3 turntable is designed around the CDM9 laser mechanism from Philips. The substantial chassis is constructed from steel. We utilise our own servos, power supplies and digital processing circuitry.

The problem inbuilt to this equation is that all this metalwork, whilst providing a marvellously rigid platform for the reader mechanism, results in a very 'live' construction. Therefore a softly sprung suspension is utilised – basically a suspended subchassis. The tendency for some vibration to stay trapped within the system, where its slow decay can affect the reader mechanism, is controlled by the carefully-weighted decision to use a plastic turntable, driven by a reliable DC motor, to utilise the predictable self-damping properties thus inherent in this part of the mechanism.

Further proof, if needed, of our attention to detail is that the spike (see **BASIC** instructions, step 4), is coupled to the mains transformer in the CD3 further reducing the already negligible vibrations produced by the device, and bearing them directly to where they can be dissipated harmlessly – outside the player.

It is now well-accepted that the structure upon which a record-player or compact disc player is situated will directly affect its overall sound quality. Micromegas are designed to work on a heavy platform, not the 'floppy shelf' beloved of turntable manufacturers. The best possible material we have found is natural granite. Not only is it incredibly beautiful when polished, but its extremely dense nature makes for desirable acoustic inertness. Wasted energy is dissipated throughout the structure, and because granite is a natural substance with a 'grain', the vibrations meet no barriers caused by opposing fragments in the material, which is the case with, for example marble, a structured material. Most Micromega distributors will be able to supply your dealer with a purpose-cut and polished granite platform, designed as the perfect interface between your player and its environment.

CABLES. The choice of cables is, ultimately, a personal matter. The coax digital interconnect provided may look simple, but we chose it after many hours of listening as offering a viable compromise in most systems. However cables can be used successfully to correct slight tonal imbalances within a system. There is no such thing as a perfect, universal cable. However, all things being equal, the cable with the least sonic signature is to be preferred. The more resolution provided by a system, the more that differences in cabling (and platforms) will become apparent. If you wish for an opinion on suitable cables for your particular set-up, contact your Micromega dealer or distributor who will be glad to offer some recommendations.

Strangely enough, sonic gains of a disturbingly obvious nature can be had by replacing the mains leads in a system. Examine some and keep an open mind.

Back with our feet more firmly on the ground, it is good practice to try to keep the mains and signal leads separate to avoid RF interference, hums and buzzes. If it is at all practical, a dedicated spur from the consumer mains unit for the hi-fi will ensure less mains-borne breakthrough, although this should *only* be carried out by a registered professional.

WARNING – it is difficult to overstate the importance of observing the correct packing as used when the unit is dispatched. Failure to repack correctly for shipment will almost certainly result in damage. Though you are unlikely to need to return your unit, it is imperative that it is properly packed for a valid warranty repair.

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