

## DYNAVECTOR DV XX-2 II

This cartridge's type number is quite a mouthful. Its *DV XX-1* precursor was the first cartridge to feature a patented 'magnetic flux damper' and 'softened magnetism', features that seek to control aspects of the behaviour of the magnetic path which are claimed to be detrimental to the performance of moving-coil cartridges.

The £995 *DV XX-2 II* retains the benefit of the flux damper (a shorting coil wound externally on the front pole), but also features an Alnico-5 magnet. It has a 6mm solid boron cantilever fitted with a Pathfinder line-contact stylus and the coils are PCOCC copper wire. Output voltage is 0.28mV with a 6 ohms impedance. It's claimed to have 'deep powerful bass, treble is both clear and lively possessing none of the hardness found in many moving coil designs', and we found these claims largely justified.

### Sound Quality

This is a modern, quite open sounding cartridge with a linear, even frequency response and highly creditable tonality. However, the soundstage is not quite as spacious as that found with the AudioNote *IO II*. It resolves detail well, and this is combined with very good image focus and vocal articulation. Both depth and a natural reverberant acoustic are well portrayed, and an upbeat

sense of drive and rhythm is aided by good, in fact approaching 'very good', timing. These fine results are set in a good dynamic framework, and the results invariably sound interesting and appealing. Like the Koetsu, this cartridge didn't seem to need bias in the Naim *ARO* tonearm – at least it sounded more focused and direct without bias, perhaps freed from the mild impediment of a lightly weighted nylon mono filament running over a stainless wire hook. Our optimum setting was no bias and a 2.0g down force. An accomplished and notably tidy sounding performer, the Dynavector *DV XX-2 II* scores an impressive 73 marks.

### Lab Report

The *DV XX-2 II* also delivers a fine set of test results, with good arm compatibility, high channel separation over a wide frequency range, and a uniform frequency response. I'm not too concerned about its failure on the highest modulation tracking test, since it was satisfactory at the level below this. Distortion is low and channel balance is excellent.

### Conclusions

We were impressed by this nicely complete Dynavector design, which did well in both lab and sound quality tests, leading to a firm recommendation

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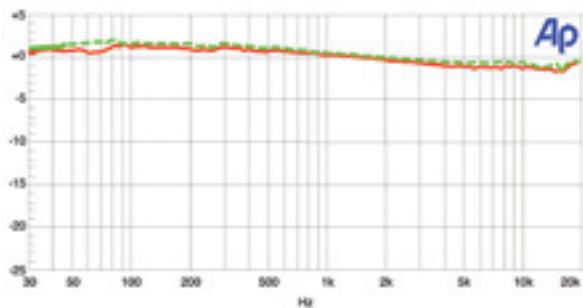


Dynavector showing the neat 8 coil array on special former showing fine workmanship



The clean diamond mount with alignment plate but with some excess adhesive above for this Dynavector

Dynavector SV-XX2MkII frequency response (red right)



### Test Results

Dynavector	DV XX-2 MKII	Price (UK)	£995
Type	low op moving coil	Output	280uV 5cm/s
Cantilever	boron rod	Impedance	6 ohms
Cartridge weight	8.9 g	Open/enclosed?	open
Output 3.45cm/s	260uV	loading	100 ohms
Channel Balance	0.3dB	frequency response 50Hz-10kHz	+1.5,-1.4 dB
Separation	32dB typical	frequency response 30Hz-20kHz	+1.6,-1.7dB
Distortion	300Hz lateral +9dB	200Hz to 6kHz	22dB at 20kHz
Trackability 300Hz	300Hz lateral +15dB	300Hz vertical +6dB	1.75%
Supertrack Test	+18dB lateral passed at	300Hz vertical +12dB	1.2 g
Stylus finish and alignment	finish	failed at	< 3.5g
LF resonance, 15g test arm	frequency	Alignment	excellent
Suggested arm type	effective mass	Rise	9 dB
	10 - 20 g	Damping yes/no:	no

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