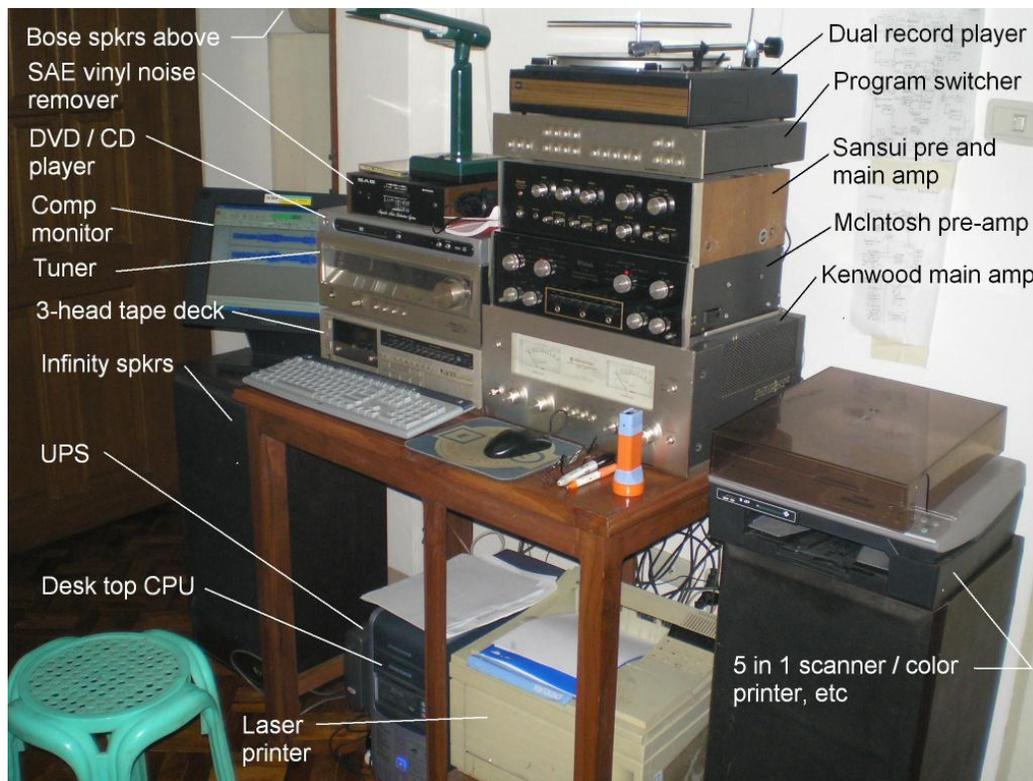


Stereo Blabber.

Allow my exuberance to give way to this write up which really is what the above subject states. You see, after many months I finally got my record player working in tandem with the computer and its software to be able to digitize vinyl music sources. I had done this already before in the US some years ago. But this now is Tanjay, and even if I had shipped all the equipment over a year ago, I hadn't set things up properly yet. Besides, the turntable was defective: the Shure headshell contacts were loose, and I always kept postponing the final solution of hard-soldering them in place. Besides, we've been back and forth to the US three or four times, and I never really got to have the settled-retiree-feeling until recently.

So today, I did the delicate job of soldering the 4 leads, and when I got it done, the connections worked. But the turntable refused to turn. I started having fears that the motor was burned, or some other worse thing. This turntable especially is one of my joys because I got it as junk and resurrected it. You probably already know one of my monikers is "junkman" which is appropriate for the high-end stuff I pick up here and there in thrift shops, and if need be, eBay. See photo below.



Whereas most guys take pride in the expensiveness of their toys, I take the opposite approach. My 65-lb Kenwood main amp cost me 35 bucks some years back, and the Onkyo tuner was 2 bucks, and a classic set of Wharfedale speakers was 30 bucks. A Hitachi direct-drive turntable and classic Marantz receiver originally left in NJ cost 30 bucks (while in NJ last month, I shipped them over, and they still are en route).

But don't get me wrong, I outlay dollars where need be. All the speakers in the photo I got brand new full price, as did the HK tape deck. And the McIntosh pre-amp and SAE noise canceller were won on eBay, which isn't cheap. But going back to this record player, it is a German make Dual turntable-record-changer, which on eBay goes as high as \$200, if in excellent condition. Actually, most serious stereophiles shun record changers. But I'm not in that class, and find a record changer practical as one can stack up to 5 platters for continuous play.

It was advertised as mechanically defective, and no one else bid so I won it for the base bid of ten bucks, and when it arrived, I overhauled and fixed it; just some misaligned and misadjusted parts. Now, after 5 months of non-use, it was not turning. But no problem, all it needed after all was some oil in the motor bearings.

So I put everything together, and lo, I now have a music system using analogue technology melded with the digital of the computer age. I must admit it is quite complicated to operate with two sets of pre-amps and main amps, four speakers, a number of input devices, all of which can be mix-matched. And this is in the small backroom behind our bedroom.

The present set up for digitizing is that the sound card of the computer goes to the Aux Input of the stereo system, and the Rec Out goes to the Line-in of the computer sound card, through an interposing pushbutton on the switcher, otherwise there'd be feedback howling during playback from the computer.

Then I use the freebie Audacity software program to shape and digitize selections from the turntable, then record it on HD as MP3s. Eventually, I can burn CDs of music from vinyl data.

Too bad I don't have anymore all those 45 rpm records of Philippine Rock 'n roll bands during the 60's that Joe Alzona gave me when I was still in LA. I only made a few recordings when in LA and they weren't that good.

Informatively, one can buy a brand new turntable (one such brand is "Ion") at Best Buy for \$120 and it has all the software to digitize vinyl directly into your computer. But the cartridge is ceramic, and I'm stereophile enough to scoff at anything that is not magnetic with a diamond bi-axial stylus. Besides digitizing that way is too easy.

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