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Reprint

Behind the scenes at Acoustic Signature:

Passion & Perfection



Acoustic Signature Managing Director Gunther Frohnhöfer has been in charge of his company for 26 years.

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Passion & Perfection

At first glance, not only are the Acoustic Signature production halls big, the considerable inventory level of aluminum and other materials leads one to the conclusion that completely different things are manufactured here in addition to turntables and tonearms. Company founder and boss Gunther Frohnhöfer recognizes our astonishment, of course, but the down-to-earth Swabian is far from taking this opportunity and patting himself on the back. It's the scarcity in the commodity market that has prompted him to ramp up stock of material to keep his production running since the pandemic began. And that's not the only investment that Frohnhöfer has made in recent months.

In 1996, the trained communications electronics technician brought the first Acoustic Signature turntable onto the market. Today Gunther Frohnhöfer runs the company together with his wife Jacqueline. Two dozen employees work in the modern factory in Süßen; the drives, tonearms, cartridges and electronic components are exported to around 40 countries. The iron laws that the company follows are also part of

The development and production of turntables has a long tradition in Germany.

However, not everyone is aware that Acoustic Signature, based in the small town of Süßen in Baden-Württemberg, is one of the big players. [i-fidelity.net](https://www.i-fidelity.net) got an idea on site with a long overdue visit.

this success story. Frohnhöfer therefore prefers to source the material for its products and additional services from the region, which is home to many globally recognized automotive suppliers. The cheapest supplier is rarely awarded the contract. A clear indication of the quality standards that also apply in-house.

Before the pandemic started in spring 2020, everything at Acoustic Signature revolved around the question of how to really surprise customers and analogue friends for the

upcoming 25th company anniversary. Ideas were collected, the team re-thought the turntable issue from start to finish – and the end of the story was the decision to turn almost the entire portfolio left to right. All products that were reborn during this time therefore bear the suffix »Neo«. What all of these components have in common is their high level of manufacturing precision, which Gunther Frohnhöfer sums up with the sentence »We manufacture here down to the micrometer.« The basis of this statement can be clearly seen on a tour of the company.

Olaf Sturm *ifn*



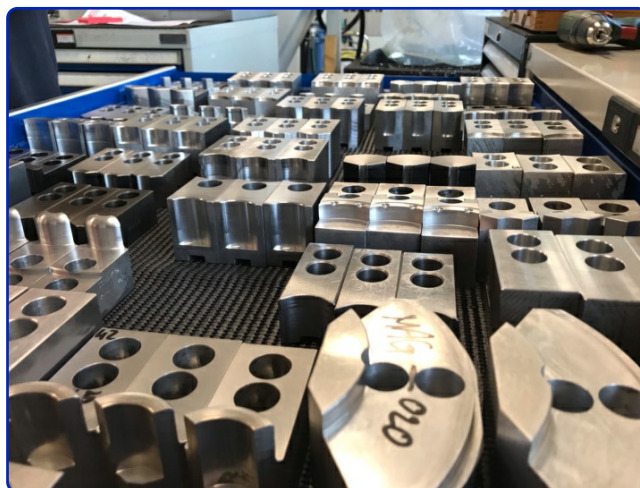
A turntable consists of hundreds of individual parts. What they all have in common is the attention to detail.



Acoustic Signature Managing Director Gunther Frohnhöfer with a fraction of his company's aluminum inventory. This maintains the ability to deliver, which many companies are struggling with elsewhere.



The Swabian company also manufactures products in the OEM sector. The resulting responsibility also forces Frohnhöfer to have a sufficient number of components in stock.

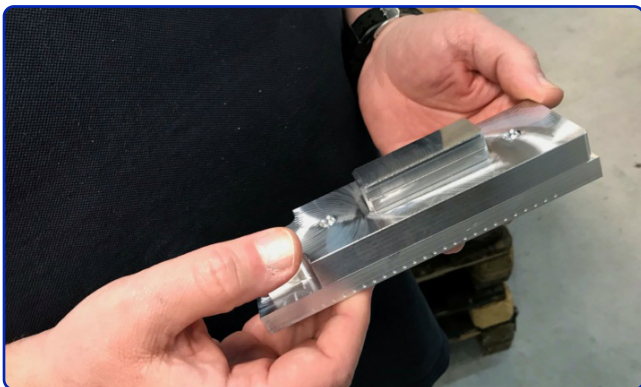


Acoustic Signature has nothing to do with spills, it's stuffed here.

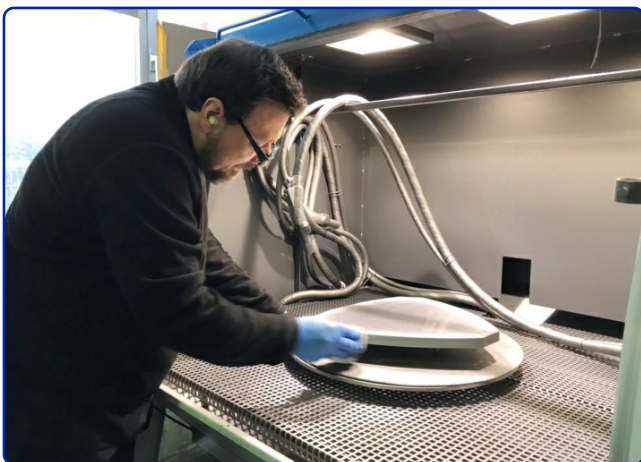
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With the help of expensive machinery, the components of a record player are manufactured with micrometer precision.



The visual check provides a first indication of the quality.



In a second production hall of the company, the metal is polished to the finest detail with the help of sandblasting.



The tonearms are also meticulously assembled by hand by trained staff.



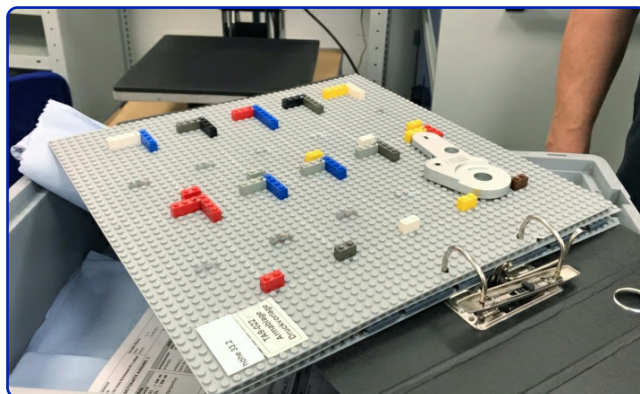
The Acoustic Signature boss is unfamiliar with the word »tolerance«: »Either it's perfect or it doesn't leave the house.«



In order to achieve the desired precision, a large number of specialized tools are used, which we have never seen from any other manufacturer in this form.



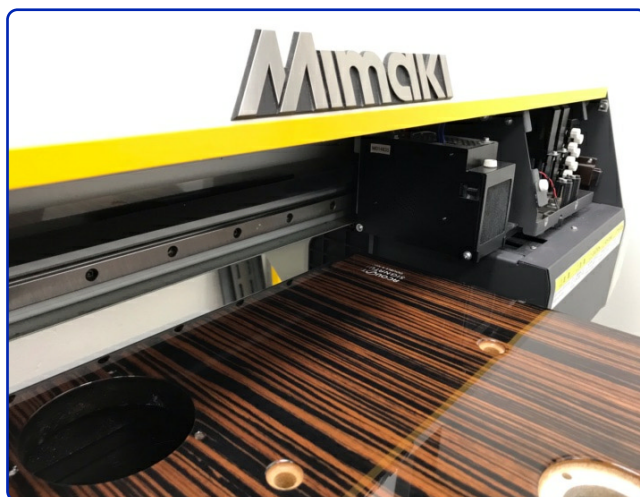
Gunther Frohnhöfer does manufacture analog drives, but the company's entire workflow is digitized.



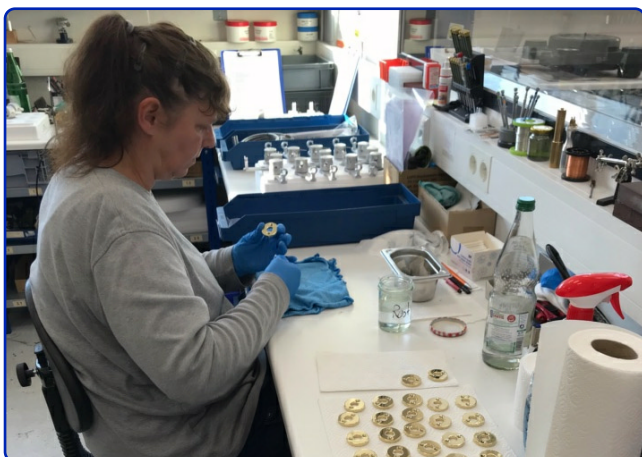
Because the quality of the labeling, which was originally done externally, was not sufficient, this step is now also being carried out in-house – with the help of an ingenious idea: Depending on the size of the workpiece, there is a suitable plate from Lego. Gunther Frohnhöfer smiles when he says: »Nobody knows how precisely these building blocks are made.«



Acoustic Signature's zero-tolerance policy begins right at the beginning of the production chain. Optical measurements of bought-in parts take place in the incoming goods department. Only what meets the requirements is allowed to happen.



However, the machine not only labels the small parts, but also entire drives.



The next check is then carried out by the employees before assembly. After all, in addition to the dimensions, a flawless appearance is also important.

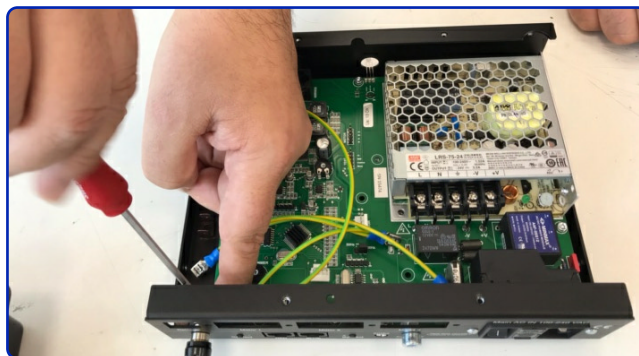


Despite all the measures taken to ensure optimal production, Acoustic Signature carries out a meticulous final inspection. After all, every record player should leave the house in perfect condition.

REPORT



Not only is it looked at, but also – you guessed it – measured to the millimeter.



The phono preamplifiers are also manufactured to this high manufacturing standard.



Export Manager Robert Hagemann and Managing Director Gunther Frohnhofer can live with the feeling of doing everything right.

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The Neo turntable generation from Acoustic Signature implements two world firsts: the »DTD« bearing (Duraturn Diamond Bearing) and the »AVC« circuit (Automatic Vibration Control). The extremely robust and ultra-precisely manufactured DTD bearing with a diamond-coated spindle ensures rigidity, accuracy and reliability, thanks to the AVC circuit, engine vibrations are automatically reduced to the lowest achievable level – an innovative concept that is intended to equate to the ideal of a virtually vibration-free drive. The Neo product line includes nine different turntables from 3,998 euros to 159,998 euros and six significantly improved tonearms, in which the material of the tonearm axles has been changed from brass to stainless steel – an upgrade that ensures significantly more rigidity and smoothness.