

2022
the absolute sound
**PRODUCT
OF THE
YEAR**
AWARD

Turntables of the Year

Acoustic Signature Maximus Neo

\$4995

The Maximus is the entry-level turntable in German manufacturer Acoustic Signature's new Neo line. It's a two-speed, belt-driven design that benefits from the technology intrinsic to its much more expensive family members. Each turntable in the Neo line is outfitted with an individualized version of the Dura Turn Diamond® bearing, which is not only super-rigid for low noise but also exceptionally rugged for long service life. The spindle is made of hardened stainless steel that is precision ground and then plasma-coated to yield a diamond-like surface. Throw in a high-end replacement for the stock leather mat and a good record clamp such as the Acoustic Signature's Grip Mk3, and you end up with a superbly rigid and well-damped vinyl playback platform that sounds far superior to any affordable table DO has auditioned over the years. It is capable of delivering smooth upper registers, tight bass lines, and vivid tonal colors. In addition, rhythmic drive and transient timing are nicely fleshed out. DO is convinced that the Maximus Neo can hold its own in the company of far more expensive systems and estimates that it offers about 70% of the sound quality of the most elite systems. That's high praise, indeed. A remarkable achievement at its asking price—and winner of our Turntable of the Year Award. (330)

