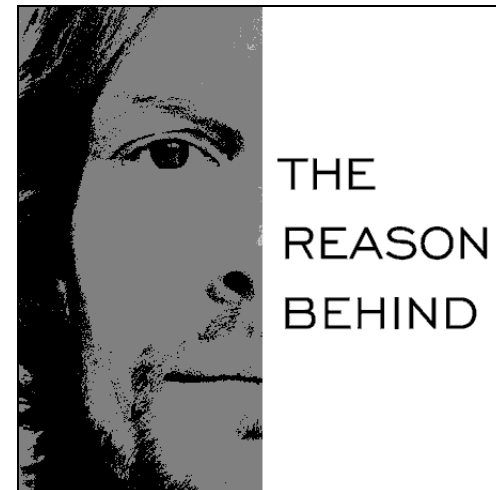


LEJONKLOU

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KINKI3

Long Live the Moving Magnet!

Moving Magnet cartridges are underrated and often quite badly treated. After having studied many commercial MM phono preamplifiers, I started wondering why none of them had the fancy components or the careful layout of their MC (Moving Coil) counterparts. Everything always appeared simplified and less expensive. With the **Slipsik** Reference MM Phono Preamplifier – introduced in October 2006 – I decided to change that pattern.

The request for a less expensive alternative soon arised. I started working on the original **Kinki** early in 2007, but the first prototypes were disappointing. During the summer, however, a new circuit design was tried and it was an immediate success. The very first attempt resulted in performance that was slightly better than Slipsik!

A long period of refinement followed and in the meantime an agreement was made with a company that could manufacture the circuit boards to my exact specification. With a fantastic sounding prototype and production ready and waiting, the last challenge was to cut costs. Silver colour only resulted in a better price for the enclosures and all time consuming procedures were rationalised. Nearly all the expenses for building a Kinki go to what's inside.

In December 2009, KINKI3 was released. This third incarnation of the Kinki is the best sounding version we've made so far. It has a new and optimised circuit board layout, with shorter signal paths and a different grounding of the inputs. The appearance has also been improved, with instructional printing on the back plate.

When building a good sounding turntable from parts, there is a strict hierarchy to observe. The most important part is the turntable mechanics, then follows the motor controller, the arm and the cartridge. It can easily be demonstrated that a modest MM cartridge mounted on a high quality arm outperforms the most expensive MC cartridge mounted on a lower quality arm. This is so simply because the arm is more important than the cartridge. Therefore it is wise to first optimise your turntable, arm and even the furniture on which the turntable stands *before* considering replacing your high quality MM cartridge with a Moving Coil.

Another reason to use an MM cartridge is that it allows quick and inexpensive stylus replacements and therefore has a much lower cost per record played. Unlike most MC owners, you don't need to worry about the condition of your stylus.

What makes KINKI3 so special?

- In short: KINKI3 is a dual mono design with a common power supply and a circuit in perfect balance.
- The delicate signal from the cartridge is amplified by exceptionally good sounding integrated circuits and passive components.
- The carefully designed circuit board layout incorporates 6 separate ground planes connected to a star ground.
- The power regulation that feeds the audio circuits uses a **Balanced Power** configuration, where an optimal amount of current is always flowing, regardless of the content of the musical signal.
- After all other quality checks, every KINKI3 is evaluated by ear before it's packed down and shipped to the customer.