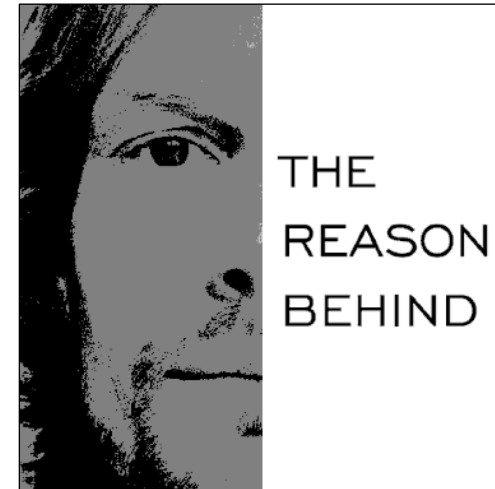


LEJONKLOU

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GAIO 2.4

Long Live the Moving Magnet!

Moving Magnet (MM) cartridges are underrated and often 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 and today in its seventh fully upgradeable incarnation – I decided to change that pattern.

One year later, in October 2007, I released **Kinki**, a less expensive model of Slipsik. Kinki was upgraded three times during its life, with the final model KINKI3 released in December 2009.

During the summer of 2013, I made a list of ideas on how to improve Kinki and make a fourth model. When experiments began, they were immediately successful. It's funny how some designs seem to resist being shaped and improved, while others just let things fall into place without much effort required. This was one of the latter and the project was pure joy from start to finish. After a month of fine tuning the circuit, so many details had changed that a new name felt appropriate. The Portuguese name of a bird with sparkling blue colours became my choice. I hope you will agree with me that **Gaio** really makes your vinyl records sing.

In January and February of 2018, a new and improved version was designed: **Gaio 2**. It borrows two components from Slipsik 6 and benefits from high frequency lessons learned on my pre- and power amplifiers Sagatun and Tundra. Gaio 2 was released in April 2018 and is now manufactured entirely in Sweden.

In January 2020, after the release of my MC phono preamplifier **Entity**, a series of tests on Gaio resulted in a significant upgrade. The new version is called Gaio 2.4, as four components have been changed. The improvement in musical performance is however far bigger than the number suggests. I hope you will enjoy Gaio 2.4!

What makes Gaio 2.4 remarkable?

- Optimization: Gaio 2.4 is manufactured of components that are pre-measured and selected into small groups. This makes every unit perform at a higher level than previously possible. After the manufacturing and assembly in Sweden, every unit is fine tuned in my lab before it's shipped to the customer.
- The circuit board: A careful layout has a large impact on sound quality. Gaio 2.4 has step by step been evaluated with different layouts, until the best and most compact solution was settled upon.
- Power supply: The power supply of Gaio has been developed over a long time. The aim is to make sure it doesn't interfere with the musical signal. The encapsulated transformer is hand soldered directly to both the power cord and the circuit board. The power cord from Longwell is twice as expensive as the cheapest alternative, but it makes a significant difference to the musical performance. It must **not** be cut down or replaced!
- Enclosure: The small enclosure is optimally damped from the inside with 77 square cm of bitumen and important fasteners are tightened with precision torque tools. The ground to chassis connection affects sound quality and its assembly is therefore specified in careful detail. The feet are chosen for best sound performance and are adjusted so that the case sits perfectly stable on a flat surface.
- Attention to detail: Common to all products from Lejonklou is an **extreme** attention to detail. Every product I develop is crafted by hundreds, sometimes thousands, of listening tests. Even seemingly unimportant details are carefully evaluated. Whenever possible I use blind tests, because they make difficult decisions easier. Everything I do and every result is written down and later studied in an attempt to find another angle. When I describe my development process to colleagues who work for other HiFi companies, they think I'm overdoing it and consider me mad. That's OK. Mad attention to detail is the single most important factor when making a HiFi product that has the ability to let the music reach out and touch you.