Perfect Azimuth Every Time With The Fozgometer!

By Jeff Dorgay

This probably sounds like something you'd expect a carnie to be screaming at the top of his lungs from down the midway while he's trying to swindle you out of 10 bucks. You know that you'll never be able to knock three bottles over, and even if you do, he will only give up a chintzy prize. (Not the big teddy bear your girlfriend *really* wants.) But with the Fozgometer, you win every time.

Correctly adjusting the azimuth on your turntable can be just as frustrating. The prize at stake here is perfect channel balance. That's better than a teddy bear any day, right? So step right up and hand Musical Surroundings $250 for a genuine Fozgometer, designed by Jim Fosgate himself. Used in conjunction with Acoustic Sounds' *Ultimate Test LP*, you'll have this aspect of your table dialed in quickly and precisely.

The Fozgometer makes use of a Log Ratio Detector, which the manual says was developed for adjusting surround-sound processor logic circuits. For those not familiar with Jim Fosgate's career, he has more than 25 patents to his credit and was the man responsible for inventing Dolby Pro Logic II decoding technology.

Purity

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• Accessories & more

Easy to Set Up, Easy to Use

The Fozgometer comes with a 9V battery and excellent instructions, along with a basic circuit overview. This handy little device is built like a tank; it reminds me of my trusty Simpson 260 multimeter.

For those of you in the audience who are only going to set up your turntable up, dial it in and forget it, the Fozgometer is probably an unnecessary expense. You can get pretty close using a voltmeter and the Acoustic Sounds test record. However, if you have more than one table, change cartridges fairly often or have a table with removable headshells/wands for different cartridges, this device is worth its weight in gold.

There is a phono preamplifier built in, so you plug your tonearm cable directly in to the Fozgometer and get to work. Use the Acoustic Sounds test record's bands two and three, which feature a 1000hz tone in the left channel, then the right. Observe the reading on the first channel, then measure the second. If the right channel reads higher, twist your head shell clockwise (very slightly) and read again. If the right channel reads lower, go slightly counterclockwise. If you are patient and have a steady hand, you will be able to get *exactly* the same reading on the right and left channels.

Finally, play the first track on the test record, which features a 1000hz mono signal. If you've done everything perfectly, the meter should read zero. And because the Fozgometer can read signals as low as -70db, when you dial your arm in this accurately, you will now have perfect channel balance.

The Fozgometer
MSRP: $250

MANUFACTURER CONTACT

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A Time Saver

What used to be mildly annoying at best and a major struggle at the worst, reconfiguring your system to achieve enough gain to make these measurements with a voltmeter is now one simple operation with the Fozgometer. And trying to attach said test probes to the ends of an audio cable is a thing of the past.

Much like a good digital scale (I highly suggest the Clearaudio Weight Watcher), the Fozgometer takes the guesswork out of one more aspect of turntable setup. Highly recommended. ●