



GEAR

Cure tough to clean records

With Record Revirginizer!

By Jeff Dorgay



I have to admit, I was more than a bit skeptical when I heard the name of this product, but after listening to a number of people on various audio forums wax poetic about applying Elmers glue to their records (and peeling it off when dry) the process of applying some goo onto a record's surface was sounding more interesting all the time.

Just to make sure I wasn't being just another wacko audiophile that wanted to just spend money instead of formulate a DIY solution, I tried the glue option as well. I can't think of a more bizarre feeling (at least in the world of HiFi) than spreading a big pool of Elmers glue on a record for the first time. And I have to be honest, it doesn't work half bad, however it was fairly tough to pull it off the record cleanly. One slip of the fingernail and you've just damaged the record you were trying to save in the first place.

Even after running the glue treated record through another round of cleaning on the Loricraft, I was still nervous about playing that record with one of my better cartridges. One chunk of glue left in the groove, and bye bye Koetsu. Hmm.

My friend Goo

At present, RR is made in Australia and only distributed there and in the UK, so US customers are looking at a healthy premium to have it shipped here. A bottle of this solution sells for \$54.95, plus another \$20 for shipping. The RR folks are very confident of their product and offer a money back guarantee as long as you send them at least a half unused bottle back. However, by the time you spend another \$20 to get essentially \$15 bucks back, it's probably a moot point. At least that's what I harrumphed under my breath as I clicked the "buy" button on their website.

The RR folks are pretty secretive about what's actually in the bottle. They call it a "viscous, non-toxic liquid, with just the right amount of elasticity..." They also claim that it has anti-static properties. For all I know, this stuff is whale sperm.

The RR solution was easy to use. Just spread a half-ounce (.25ml) of the blue goo all over the record surface with your fingers. That's right, not only are we spreading a foreign substance on our precious record, we're rubbing it in with the hands that are never supposed to touch said record surface. Crazy. I suggest washing your hands thoroughly before beginning, because cleanliness is next to whatever higher power you happen to believe in.

Once you've overcome your fear of getting intimate with your record's delicate surface, the next part is easy. Cut out a neat little paper tab from the instruction sheet and carefully place it on the outer edge of the record so that you can pull the mask up when dry.



MORE GEAR

BOULDER'S 1008 PHONO PREAMPLIFIER

THE REGA ISIS CD PLAYER

THE MINI WATT AMPLIFIER: TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT HIFI

THE NEKO AUDIO D-100 DAC

THE PEACHTREE NOVA

THE MR88, MCINTOSH'S DREAM TUNER

THE VITUS AUDIO SS -050 AMPLIFIER

CURE TOUGH TO CLEAN RECORDS

EXCLUSIVE-THE REGA RP1

WE REVISIT THE NEW HALEY AND JACO FROM RUNNING SPRINGS

FANTASTIC VALUE FROM CLEARAUDIO:

MINIWATT'S LATEST: THE N3!

MICROMEGA'S AIRSTREAM PROVIDES AN ELEGANT SOLUTION

MAGNEPAN 1.6

RECORD CLEANING FOR FANATICS

BENCHMARK DAC-1HDR

RED WINE AUDIO BLACK LIGHTNING DC POWER SUPPLY

RUNNING SPRINGS MAXIM POWER LINE CONDITIONER

MARTINLOGAN PURITY: HIFI WITH EASE!

REGA ELICIT - A TOP SHELF INTEGRATED

PATHOS CLASSICONE MK.III

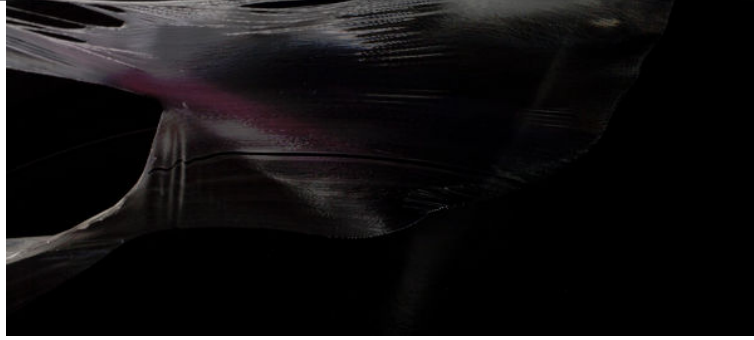
VISTA AUDIO I34 INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

RITA-340 INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

MOSCODE 402AU

THINKFLOOD RED EYE





12 hours later

As Bernadette Peters said in *The Jerk*, when she removed the Mask-O-Derm from Steve Martin's face, "Hey, this shit really works!" I must admit I was equally impressed with the results of the RR mask. I started with a very noisy copy of Traffic's *John Barleycorn Must Die* that I paid way too much money for (a Pink Island, don't you know) and was incredibly disappointed on playback, so I felt like this would be a major win if it worked. A \$50 bottle of liquid to save a \$40 record purchase; again my inner curmudge said, "If this doesn't work, you'll have almost \$100 tied up in this awful record," but I forged on and spread the blue goo.

12 hours later, it peeled right off easily, but just to be absolutely sure, I ran one more pass on the Loricraft, just to feel safe. Even when playing the record on my Rega P9 with Lyra Skala cartridge (that is not terribly unforgiving of surface noise), the surface went from unlistenable to a couple of very minor, subdued pops.

The results were highly impressive. Record Revirginizer lives up to its claim and removes the ground in dirt out of your records. At \$55 a bottle, this is not for every record in your collection, but when used judiciously as triage for a record that can't be cleaned any other way, it works like a charm. Or you can take your chances with Elmer. I know which route I'll be taking in the future.

[Click here to find out more...](#)

Previous spotlight: Exclusive-The Rega RP1

Next spotlight: The Vitus Audio SS -050 Amplifier
