



Loch and load!

Looking for record cleaning without the stress? **Ed Selley** tries out a considered solution from Germany

Record cleaning machines have been a niche but steady part of the market for many years and can be very useful for salvaging vinyl that might otherwise be unplayable. Nessie is a German company and three models are now being brought into the UK of which the ProPlus+ is the flagship offering.

Where the ProPlus+ differs from its siblings is that as well as having a vacuum arm that removes cleaning fluid from the record surface – along with any debris – there is also a fluid application arm. This allows you to electrically pump cleaning liquid through the brush heads and onto the vinyl. Once you have done so, the Nessie will rotate clockwise and counter-clockwise on a pre-set program to clean out dirt and debris.

When this has been completed, the cleaning arm lifts off and the vacuum one is applied. This performs a shorter sequence – again in both directions – before automatically switching off. Manually applying the correct amount

of fluid to a record can be a slightly haphazard (and messy) experience that the Nessie removes at a stroke. It takes about two records to judge exactly how long to press the button.

Nessie supplies a large, chromed weight that presses down on the record and this covers the label to stop any fluid getting on it. There is a reasonably large tank to hold waste water. A final thing worth noting is that it feels like a piece of hi-fi in a way that many more affordable cleaners do not and many people will be happy to have it out on display. Optional covers are available.

Sound quality

Kicking off with a copy of Moby's *I Like To Score*, which, – while a bargain at the price I paid for it – has been languishing unplayed for some years, a single 'pass' (that is to say, the 90 seconds of brushing the agent into the record, followed by vacuuming it clean) on each side does a great deal to bring the vinyl back to a listenable condition. *Where New Dawn Fades*

had simply been murky and actively distorted at points, but now the performance is clear and sounds as it should. The Nessie can do nothing about some pops on the recording that remain – and that almost certainly pertain to actual damage – but the effect is impressive.

With a record that is simply grubby but physically sound, the Nessie can make a legitimate claim to returning the vinyl to as-new condition. A copy of Enya's *Watermark* that is filthy, comes up sounding absolutely free of unwanted noise. The partial exception to this is the lead-in groove and roughly the first minute of playback, which remains fractionally noisier. Presumably there is a limit to how far the fluid application arm can spread cleaning fluid without it running off the side of the record. Applying the same process to a brand new copy of *Never Going Under* by Circa Waves does lend weight to the axiom that even new records can benefit from the cleaning process. This was absolutely silent before being given a clean, but there's a slight but perceivable jump to fine detail retrieval after Nessie has worked its magic on it.

Conclusion

In my time using the ProPlus+, my perception is that the improvement in cleaning quality over and above a more affordable vacuum machine with manual fluid application isn't truly dramatic; a skilled operative should get good results applying their own liquid. Where the Nessie scores is the simplicity and consistency it achieves. It's a device that is so easy and encouraging to use, I would imagine having it ready to go to give something a 'quick pass' rather than digging a machine out to make an afternoon of it every couple of months. It's not exactly cheap, but the ProPlus+ certainly delivers superb results with minimal stress ●

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Nessie Vinylcleaner ProPlus+

ORIGIN
Germany

TYPE
Vacuum record cleaning machine

WEIGHT
8.5kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
321 x 295 x 230mm

FEATURES
● Fluid application arm
● Vacuum arm
● 30rpm bi-directional motor
● Fluid reservoir and catch tank

DISTRIBUTOR
The Audio Business

WEBSITE
vinylcare.de
theaudiobusiness.co.uk

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: Excellent and consistent cleaning performance; easy to use and well made

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: Can struggle to deep clean the very edge of a record

BUILD QUALITY



WE SAY: A premium solution that delivers great results, build and features

FEATURES



OVERALL

