

Cleaning up in Berlin



One problem for collectors looking to play records on a better-than-average turntable back at home is a four-letter word: *dirt*. Many of these second hand finds have seen DJ booth action which means everything from grubby fingers to drink spillages have possibly left their mark deep within a record's grooves. Sometimes this dirt is visible to the naked eye but most times it isn't.

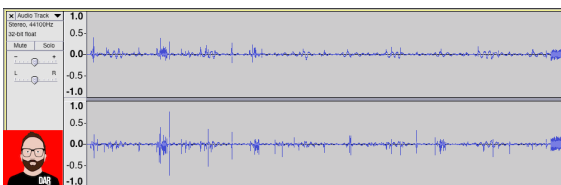
Why care? In the long-term, dirt spells unnecessary wear and tear on the cartridge's stylus tip. In the here and now, it means more audible surface noise.

Enter Pro-Ject's VC-S.

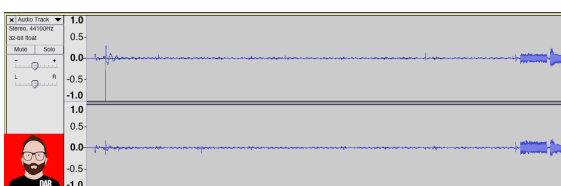
Cleaning each side takes less a minute. In this respect, the Pro-Ject cleaner is faster than the OKKI NOKKI. It's for people in a hurry. Or perhaps those who lack patience. Records emerge from the VC-S almost dry and can be played almost immediately. After cleaning the *Spooky 12"*, the amount of audible surface noise dropped significantly which in turn made it a much more enjoyable listen.

Impressive!

The surface noise reduction can even be seen in the waveforms. Here are the first five seconds or so of *Shunt's A-side* before cleaning:



And here are those same five seconds afterwards:



This makes Pro-Ject's VC-S record cleaning machine (and fluid) a must have for any crate digger serious about returning previously DJ-d vinyl to home-playable condition. A no nonsense DAR-KO Award goes out to Pro-Ject for a no nonsense, easy to use and highly effective appliance.