



TT04: highly affordable

GEMINI TT04

DIRECT DRIVE TURNTABLE

GEMINI'S LATEST DECK CONTAINS THE MOST POWERFUL MOTOR ON THE MARKET, YET IT STILL COMES WITH A HIGHLY AFFORDABLE PRICE TAG.

PRICE: £249 INFORMATION: WWW.GEMINIDJ.COM CONTACT: 0870 870 0880

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DJMAG first had a look at decks from Gemini's TT series back in March (issue no85/vol3), when we checked out the o1 and o2 models. Impressed with the units' value for money, we were keen to finally have a spin on the flagship TT04.

At a glance, the specifications on this top of the range deck seem to provide the same superb degree of value, rivalling many of the high-end pro models out there. With a market-leading 5.1kg of torque in the motor, some great features offering DJs creative opportunities and a keen price, the TT04 appears worthy of any DJ's consideration.

TORQUE/POWER

Torque refers to the power of the spinning motion of a turntable's platter. The higher the torque weight, the more powerful and robust the platter's spinning performance. For the DJ, this means the platter starts quickly from standing and reaches the desired speed almost immediately, rather than the gradual 'wind up' familiar to belt drive users.

When adjusting the platter in the mix, the deck will jump back to the adjusted speed instantly after you have touched it. With lower torque, the touches to the platter are exaggerated (speed the deck up and it will take longer to slow down), making it much harder to control.

The TT04 motor's whopping 5.1kg of torque puts it right up with the most powerful platters on the market. In our tests this power shone through. The start-up time is near instant and you can be heavy handed with your adjustments when required and the platter jumps straight back to where it should be.

Alternatively, for those who prefer using the pitch

adjust controls to correct their mixes, again the TT04 performs well with lightning quick response times to help the DJ stay on top of things.

UP TO SCRATCH?

The TT04 has a straight tone-arm to enhance its scratching capabilities, which can be adjusted by up to 6mm up or down for optimum performance with the cartridge. Straight tone-arms hold the groove of the record more solidly than traditional S-shaped arms, and in our test the TT04 proved very solid indeed, scoring well by holding the groove even during some deliberately over-emphasised freestyle manoeuvres.

FEATURES

The TT04 is not as generously featured as some decks on the market, but Gemini have been able to include several of the more useful innovations currently doing the rounds. Pitch control is adjustable between +/- 10% or 20%, which leaves plenty of scope for mixing up different styles or locking down fine adjustments within a standard set. The markings for each are clearly

labelled, allowing quick referencing.

They have also included a reverse feature, which again is quick to respond and allows for some great cut-up effects. The Start and Brake times are adjustable, with well-designed retractable pots that can be kept out of the way when not in use. Furthermore, the platter can be set to 33, 45 or 78rpm, so grandad's wax can be dusted off to add that elusive be-bop element to a set. The power cable, phono cable and target light are all removable and replaceable, so no trips to the repair shop to fix a loose connection if they eventually wear out. The target light is a very powerful white LED, which makes it easy to spot exactly where tracks end in the dark.

LOOKS/BUILD

The TT04 is thoughtfully designed with the layout simple and uncluttered. All buttons are low travel and LED-lit to show if they are on or off - again, very handy in the dark. These match the design of the newer Gemini CD players, so the full set obviously looks very cool. The unit is heavy and feels solid and the base is rubber coated to improve damping and reduce

INFO

T-SPECS

» High torque (5.0kg) direct drive turntable » CPU controlled magnetic platter motor system » Adjustable +/-10% or 20% pitch button w/LED » Retractable start/brake delay rotary controls » Aluminum platter with easy glide grooves and rubber damping » Rubber coated base » Straight tone-arm » Tone-arm height adjustment (6mm) » Anti-skating controls » LED illuminated soft touch buttons » 3/45/78 RPM » Push button quartz lock and reverse w/LED » Removable bright LED target light » Removable head shell » Detachable RCA & ground cables » Unit dimensions: 450 x 82 x 353mm » Weight: 9.1 kg

PROS

» High torque motor gives great response » Thoughtfully designed with good features » Great value

CONS

» Weak tone-arm clamp

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USER FRIENDLY	★★★★★
SOUND QUALITY	★★★★
BUILD QUALITY	★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★

sound bleed. One small bug on our unit was that the widget that locks the tone-arm down in transportation was a little flimsy, although it's hard to see this being a disaster for anyone. Overall, in sustained use, the unit feels solid and performs well.

TOP SPEC, LOW PRICE

While this is the most expensive turntable in Gemini's range, like all of their products, it remains highly affordable - some retailers are letting these go for under £500 for a pair. The exceptionally high motor torque really makes the TT04 feel the equal of much more expensive units, and with some handy features that take it far beyond the budget models of just a few years ago, this is real progress for Gemini.

If you're looking to step up from your entry level decks or indeed looking for a first pair that will last you well into the future, the TT04s are well worth your consideration.



TT04: taken from behind