



Garrard's In-Between Synchro-Lab

The Equipment: Garrard SL72B, a three-speed (33-, 45-, and 78-rpm) changer. Dimensions: 14 by 12¼ inches; requires 4¾ inches clearance above mounting board for changer spindle, 7 inches for spindle removal, 3 inches clearance below mounting board. Price: \$89.50; B2 base, \$6.50 additional. Manufacturer: Garrard Engineering Ltd., Wiltshire, England; U.S. distributor: British Industries Co., Westbury, N.Y. 11590.

Comment: The Garrard SL72B is a Synchro-Lab model, meaning that its motor is of the synchronous/induction design that Garrard has successfully used in its premium models for the last few years. The SL72B is very similar to the SL95B (see HIGH FIDELITY test report, January 1971). At the left of the top plate is the speed/size selector with positions for 12-inch 78s, 7-inch 45s, and 12-inch, 10-inch, and 7-inch LPs. To the right are three levers: automatic change-cycle start/stop, manual off/on motor switch, and play/lift for the damped cueing control.

Three spindles are provided: the tall automatic-change mechanism, the stub manual-play spindle, and a large-hole 45 adapter that fits over the manual-play spindle. (A changer spindle for large-hole 45s is available as an accessory.) With the manual spindle in place, records can still be cued automatically by pressing the first of the lever controls, and the arm will return to the rest position at the end of the side.

The arm assembly is similar in basic description to that in the SL95B, with the same plug-in cartridge clip, though the arm itself is a thin, hexagonal tubular design. Just in front of the pivot ring is the tracking-force gauge; at the back end is an adjustable counterweight. On the pivot assembly are adjustments for arm height during the change cycle and stylus set-down point. Beside the arm mount is the antiskating bias adjustment. A restraining clip is built into the arm-support post to prevent accidental motion of the arm when records are being placed on or removed from the turntable.

The turntable is delivered without base, for custom mounting. The usual mounting template is provided, as are clips to hold the three spindles when they are not in use. Most users probably will prefer to buy a base, however. The manufacturer's own B2 base we used with the SL72B has compartments for the spare spindles,

making mounting of the accessory clips unnecessary.

In lab tests the SL72B behaved very much like the SL95B with only insignificant variations in all but one test. Turntable speed is within ½ per cent of correct at all speeds (0.5% fast at 33 rpm, 0.4% at 45, and 0.2% at 78) and did not vary with voltage changes over the normal test range (105 to 127 VAC). Average flutter was measured at 0.09%; CBS-ARLL rumble at -56 dB. By comparison to the SL95B, arm resonance (with a Shure V-15 Type II Improved cartridge) is slightly higher in frequency (7.5 Hz) but slightly lower in amplitude (8 dB). At 20 milligrams in the lateral plane and 70 milligrams vertically, the arm-pivot friction is the only measured characteristic that is significantly poorer than lab measurements of the SL95B, but these figures are by no means excessive. A tracking force of 0.5 grams is needed to trip the changer mechanism. Stylus-force measurements showed the gauge to read somewhat higher than true, but at the bottom of the scale (where tracking force tends to be most critical) it is most accurate. Antiskating forces measure very close to optimum.

In other words, the SL72B will give you virtually the performance of the SL95B at a saving of some \$40—not a bad deal no matter how you look at it. The most obvious differences between the two models are the somewhat smaller platter of the SL72B, and the jazzier arm assembly of the SL95B. As the friction figures document, the change in arm does entail some change in performance; but since no serious degradation is involved, the SL72B can be recommended as a fine changer and an excellent buy.

CIRCLE 143 ON READER-SERVICE CARD

Garrard SL72B Additional Data

Stylus gauge accuracy: Gauge setting Grams measured		
	1	0.8
	2	1.6
	3	2.5
	4	3.4