



The Nagra VFS

For the Nagraphile Who Has Everything \$1,500

We've reviewed our fair share of Nagra gear in TONE over the past couple of years, and I must admit that I am fond of the brand for a number of reasons. I hope that the people at Nagra won't mind me comparing them to Leica cameras, as I see some amazing parallels: both companies share long histories in their respective industries, they are committed to engineering excellence and they offer elegant compact design solutions in a world where bigger physical size is often mistaken for better performance.

Most components, no matter how well designed, always seem to benefit somewhat from vibration control. When John Quick from Nagra USA let me know that Nagra had taken the technology that they developed for their CD players and put it to work on a vibration-reduction platform, I got excited. In a reserved Swiss sort of way, of course.

The Nagra VFS (Vibration Free System) works with two plates of finely machined and anodized aluminum that is identical to what the cases of Nagra electronics are made from, separated by small pods of Nagra's Alpha Gel material, used in the transports of the Nagra CD range. Each plate uses a different density of Alpha Gel to achieve broad-bandwidth vibration control, and the VFS system includes a set of Nagra's delrin-tipped Arcap conical (spikes?) feet, identical to the ones pictured on the bottom of the Nagra VPS phono stage that I reviewed in TONEAudio #17. (The VFS spikes are available separately for \$349 for a set.)