

# **H-16.5**

# **Record Cleaning Machine**

## **Setup and Instruction Manual**



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## Important: Read before proceeding!

- Read and follow the **safety instructions below**.
- Save all packing materials. The HW-16.5 should only be moved or shipped in its original packaging to reduce the risk of damage in transit.
- Do not touch the velvet surfaces, skin oil will contaminate the velvet and affect the performance of the HW-16.5.
- To reduce noise from the HW-16.5, place it on a firm, stable surface.

## Safety Instructions



**Follow the instructions below to reduce risk of electrical hazard.**

1. Do not operate the HW-16.5 near an open flame, burning cigarette, pipe, cigar, etc.
2. To avoid electrical shock, do not open the cabinet of the HW-16.5.
3. If the power cord provided with the HW-16.5 does not reach an outlet, use a heavy-duty, grounded extension cord.
4. To avoid electrical shock, always plug the HW-16.5 into a grounded outlet.
5. Do not expose the HW-16.5 to rain or excessive moisture.



**Follow the instructions below to avoid damage to the HW-16.5.**

1. Do not leave the HW-16.5 unit running unattended.
2. Use the HW-16.5 in a well-ventilated area.
3. Place the HW-16.5 on a firm surface to allow proper ventilation to occur.
4. If the turntable stops due to overheating, turn the TURNTABLE and VACUUM switches off. Allow the HW-16.5 to cool down for 45 minutes before resuming operation.
5. Keep the white hose clamp shut when cleaning records.
6. Unlike VPI Record Cleaning Machine Fluid, some third-party cleaning fluids are flammable. Damage to the HW-16.5 caused by third-party cleaning fluids will void the warranty.
7. To avoid unnecessary wear on the vacuum motor, do not turn on the VACUUM switch unless the TURNTABLE switch is already on.

## Introduction

The HW-16.5 Record Cleaning Machine from VPI Industries, Inc. microscopically cleans all vinyl analog records. A special adapter and Vacuum Pickup Tube are available for cleaning seven-inch 45 RPM records and ten-inch 78 RPM records.



**NOTE:** Older 78 RPM shellac records can be cleaned using a special cleaning fluid available from VPI. The cleaning fluid provided with the HW-16.5 should **not** be used on shellac records.

Your new HW-16.5 Record Cleaning Machine has been carefully designed and manufactured. To ensure years of trouble-free performance, please read and follow the instructions in this manual.

## In This Package



- The HW-16.5 unit.
- Power cord.
- Bottle of VPI Record Cleaning Machine Fluid.
- Cleaning brush.
- This manual.

## **Technical Specifications**

### **Fuses**

- 10 amps, 22 by 5 millimeters (115 volt unit).
- 6.3 amps, 22 by 5 millimeters (230 volt unit).

### **Vacuum Motor**

- Permanently lubricated ball/sleeve bearings.
- Class A insulation.
- Intermittent duty.
- Maximum amps:
  - 5.7 (115 volt unit).
  - 3.3 (230 volt unit).
- CFM:
  - 95.0 (115 volt unit).
  - 99.0 (230 volt unit).

### **Turntable Motor**

- Grease-filled.
- Porous bronze bearings.
- RPM:
  - 18 (115 volt unit).
  - 16 (230 volt unit).
- 166:1 gear ratio.

## Operating the HW-16.5

### Setting Up the HW-16.5

When using the HW-16.5 for the first time, we recommend that you use a dirty, dispensable record.

1. Place the HW-16.5 on a firm, stable surface, making sure the drain hose is not caught under the unit and the clamp on the hose is closed.

Do not remove the protective covering on the cover until the unit has been run successfully.

2. Connect the power cord to the back of the unit and plug it into a grounded outlet that provides the necessary voltage.
3. Open the cover.
4. Turn on the TURNTABLE switch. There will be noise from the high torque, 100:1 gear motor.
5. Turn on the VACUUM switch. There will be noise from the 19,000-RPM fan.
6. Turn off the VACUUM switch, then turn off the TURNTABLE switch.

### Using the HW-16.5

Record cleaning must always be done in the following order.

1. If the Vacuum Pickup Tube is pointing toward the spindle, rotate it until it is clear of the turntable and pointing toward the back of the HW-16.5.
2. Remove the clamp, place the record on the turntable, and replace the clamp. Tighten the clamp enough to hold the record firmly, but not so much that the edge of the record curves upward.



**NOTE:** The record clamp should turn smoothly on the spindle and should not be forced. If it does not tighten smoothly, unscrew it and replace it. Forcing the record clamp could damage it.

3. Turn on the TURNTABLE switch. With one hand, squirt cleaning fluid onto the grooved area of the record while pressing the brush against the grooved area with your other hand. Wait until the bristles of the brush

are wet before pressing hard against the record. The pressure should be enough to distribute the fluid, but not enough to bend the bristles significantly.

Avoid getting cleaning fluid on the record label. Use enough fluid to create a continuous film over the entire grooved surface. As you gain experience using the HW-16.5, determining the right amount of fluid will become easy.

4. Remove the brush when the grooved area is completely covered with fluid.
5. Rotate the Vacuum Pickup Tube counterclockwise over the record so that it is pointing almost toward the record spindle.
6. Turn on the VACUUM switch. The Vacuum Pickup Tube will lower and lock into position pointing toward the spindle.
7. After the record has completed two revolutions, turn off the VACUUM switch. When the Vacuum Pickup Tube lifts off the record, rotate it until it is pointing toward the back of the unit.

Two revolutions are usually sufficient to remove all of the cleaning fluid and leave the record completely dry. If some fluid remains on the record, turn on the VACUUM switch for two more revolutions.

The drying speed depends on your location due to differences in line voltage.



**NOTE:** Excessive vacuuming will lead to a build-up of static electricity, which will attract more dirt to the newly cleaned record.

8. Turn off the TURNTABLE switch.



**NOTE:** To avoid damaging the HW-16.5 and your records, always turn off the VACUUM switch before turning off the TURNTABLE switch.

9. Unscrew the record clamp, carefully remove the record, and repeat the procedure on the other side of the record.

## **Care and Maintenance of the HW-16.5**

### **Draining the HW-16.5**

The used cleaning fluid should be emptied from the HW-16.5 after every 6 records (or 12 record sides) are cleaned.

1. To drain the used fluid, place a small container at the end of the hose. Release the clamp on the hose and tip the HW-16.5 back approximately 10 degrees.
2. Return the HW-16.5 to its original position and close the clamp on the hose. Dispose of the used fluid.

### **Cleaning the HW-16.5**

Periodically wipe the cork mat and the inside of the cabinet with a slightly damp sponge. To remove any debris from around the turntable, use a vacuum cleaner with a dusting brush.

### **Cleaning the Vacuum Pickup Tube**

After every record cleaning session, clean the Vacuum Pickup Tube with a clean, lint-free, slightly damp sponge.

### **Cleaning the Brush**

After every record cleaning session, wash the brush under warm running water.

### **Replacing the Vacuum Pickup Tube**

If the velvet covering is worn or damaged, it must be replaced to avoid damaging your records. VPI recommends that you replace the Vacuum Pickup Tube after every 200 records (or 400 sides). Contact VPI to order a new Vacuum Pickup Tube.

1. To remove the old Vacuum Pickup Tube assembly, lift it straight up. Leave the spring in place.
2. Slightly twist the clear tube to remove it from the rest of the assembly.
3. Insert the new clear tube into the assembly with the velvet surfaces facing down and with the end of the slot slightly to the back of the HW-16.5.

4. Make sure that the space between the two velvet surfaces faces slightly backward. If the space faces directly down, the vacuuming will not work properly. Rotate the tube until it is in the correct position.
5. Put the Vacuum Pickup Tube assembly back in place.
6. Clean a record following the procedures in *Using the HW-16.5* on page 6. If the end of the Vacuum Pickup Tube closest to the record spindle does not touch the record, remove the assembly from the unit. Hold the black housing firmly and gently push down on the end of the Vacuum Pickup Tube to put it into proper alignment.
7. Replace the assembly and resume cleaning to make sure the Vacuum Pickup Tube contacts the record fully.



**NOTE:** Do not change the setting of the black collar on the Vacuum Pickup Tube. It has been set for proper spring tension and lift height.

## Tips for Using the HW-16.5

- The HW-16.5 is not a dry-cleaning machine. To avoid scratching a record and creating a build-up of static electricity, do not run the unit without liquid on the record.
- When cleaning heavily soiled records, turn the TURNTABLE switch on and hold a damp sponge against the record for several seconds, then clean the record following the instructions. This will extend the life of the Vacuum Pickup Tube.
- For cleaning shellac records, use a different Vacuum Pickup Tube and brush from the ones used to clean vinyl records. Many shellac records were made with carbide abrasive materials to shape the steel needles used to play the records. This abrasive can be picked up on the velvet surfaces and the brush bristles; if the same Vacuum Pickup Tube and brush are used on vinyl records, damage can occur.

Be sure to mark the end of the Vacuum Pickup Tube and the handle of the brush that you use for shellac records to avoid confusing them.

- Drying time will vary based on line voltage conditions.

## **VPI Industries, Inc. Limited Warranty**

VPI Industries, Inc. (VPI) warrants this unit against defects in materials and/or workmanship for 90 days from the date of purchase by the original retail purchaser. VPI's sole obligation under this warranty is limited to the repair or replacement, at VPI's option, of any part(s) found to be defective.

VPI's obligation to repair or replace defective parts is the purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy, and VPI shall not be liable for any direct or indirect injury and/or property damage arising out of the use of the product or defect in or failure of the product.

This warranty does not extend to any unit whose serial number has been defaced or altered, or to any product which VPI determines contains a defect or malfunction due to incorrect installation, modification, misuse or servicing by the purchaser, or service technician not authorized by VPI to perform such service. It does not cover trivial or cosmetic defects that do not impair the unit's normal function.

VPI reserves the right to make changes in this product without assuming any obligation to install such change in any product previously manufactured.

This warranty to repair or replace defective parts is in lieu of all other express or implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. There are no warranties that extend beyond the description herein.

Some states do not allow exclusion of implied warranties or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above exclusion or limitations may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

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