

Basic Detail Report



Technics SL-1200 MK2 Turntable with Stanton Cartridge Used by Grandmaster Flash

Date

c. 1972

Primary Maker

Grandmaster Flash

Medium

metal

Description

This Technics SL-1200 MK2 direct-drive turntable with Stanton cartridge, nicknamed the “Wheels of Steel,” was used in musical performance by hip-hop DJ Grandmaster Flash in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Technics SL-1200 MK2 turntable, originally released in 1976 and manufactured by Matsushita Electric, was one of the most popular for DJing due to its direct drive, high torque motor design that made it easier to use pushbutton cueing on tracks, and the location of the pitch control located on top of the deck. Flash attached a nickel to the Stanton cartridge on the turntable for additional weight to prevent the stylus skipping on the vinyl albums during a set. By using a slip mat under each record, Flash could "scratch" discs back and forth, or hold and release them at precise points in a song, while the SL-1200's powerful motor kept the platter spinning at an exact and constant speed.

Dimensions

Overall (HWD): 6 × 17 5/8 × 14 1/2 in. (15.24 × 44.768 × 36.83 cm)