

LMC Vinyl Launch Event

Review by David Das

I had the pleasure of attending the LMC Vinyl Launch Event along with Club President John Harvell, Joe Roberts and many others on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

This event was hosted by **Mike Ware**, owner of [LMC Home Entertainment](#). Mike invited **Norm Steinke**, US Sales Manager of Burmester Home Audio as his special guest.



Norm demonstrated how different vinyl releases of the same song can vary a lot in surface noise, dynamics, treble and bass balance.

These differences were clearly audible to the audience when played back through the [Sonus Faber Suprema](#) system with [Burmester 159](#) power amps and a [Burmester 175 Turntable](#).

The 175 is a complete playback system comprising of the Turntable, magnetically damped base plate, tone arm, cartridge, outboard power supply, inboard motor controller and a phono preamplifier.

Here is a close up of Burmester's \$60,000 flagship reference Turntable.



The [Mobile Fidelity](#) vinyl releases consistently sounded better with more clarity, less surface noise and more musicality justifying their higher price.

[PURE SOUND Master Recordings](#) sounded magical through the Sonus Faber Suprema system.



In the 2nd half of the demo, **Jordan** ushered us into the Wilson Audio room.





Jordan had a surprise treat for us. He put the debate between a vinyl and Digital source to rest with a simple A-B comparison and he did not even have to use the Wilson [Chronosonic XVX](#) or the [Alexx V](#) to prove his point.



Jordan played a segment from “Peaceful Easy Feeling” by the Eagles from a streaming source. Next, he played a vinyl recording of the same track on a Linn LP12 Turntable. The difference was night and day the moment the strumming guitars began to play through the Wilson Audio [Alexia V](#) speakers.

The strumming guitars from the vinyl source sounded so much more rounded, coherent, smoother, musical, real and engaging. By comparison the digital source was brash, harsh and 2-dimensional missing all the soul.

This was the first time I had the opportunity to hear the difference between vinyl and digital sources using the same track on quality playback gear. Vinyl wins hands down. I was not expecting this much of a sonic difference.

My verdict – if you have an expansive vinyl collection, hold on to it for life. You already have the best source material. Do not even bother with streaming services. They cannot connect at an emotional level the way vinyl does.

John remarked that streaming services like Qobuz and Tidal gives you instant access to millions of high-resolution tracks without the needle noise or tape hiss with dynamic ranges typically exceeding 93dB while vinyl struggles to deliver dynamic ranges above 70dB. However, he conceded that specs alone do not convey the entire picture.

Jordan had yet another surprise in store for us. He played back the same track from the same vinyl record on two identical Linn LP12 turntables, except the one on the right had a modified plinth.

We were astonished to hear the extra clarity in the bass definition on the LP12 with the modified plinth (\$44k) vs. the standard LP12 on the left (\$33K).

The effectiveness of the damping mechanism makes a world of difference when it comes to turntables. I could see why someone would welcome this \$11k upgrade.



There is a reason why the Linn LP12 turntable is treated as a prized possession amongst audiophiles. It has become an iconic true and trusted design.

However the Burmester 175 turntable is technically superior. *It is a complete system.*

Mike had several other Turntables on display.

This is the [Clearaudio Statement V2](#) Turntable (\$275k)







Mike's movie theater now features the [Martin Logan Neolith](#) speakers (\$120k/pair)





Mike has installed custom designed racks to showcase his premium vinyl record collection.





All of these attractive racks can be found in the main showroom featuring the Wilson Audio [WAMM Master Chronosonic](#) speakers powered by Dan D'Agostino amps and a [dCS Varese](#) front end.





Mike's lovely fiancée Tina raffled out a few premium albums from his exclusive collection.



As always Mike and Tina were gracious hosts. We enjoyed the delicious treats.



This was another educational event for me. I experienced just how much better vinyl sounds over digital in a direct A-B comparison between sources. I discovered the differences between vinyl releases and heard the sonic differences as a result of upgrading the plinth of a turntable.

John commented that reel-to-reel tape can get you even closer to the original master recordings.

Mike mentioned that he is planning to host a special reel-to-reel tape event in the near future. I am looking forward to this.

We feel fortunate to have Mike and his team welcome all our Club Members to these special events allowing us to experience the pinnacle of high-end audio.

Best regards,

David Das