

Relaxa

Retail Prices (US\$)

Relaxa (isolation platform)	795.00
Relaxa Feet (set of 3 feet)	495.00
Relaxa Stand (speaker stand)	1,550.00
Relaxa Stand (J-2001 speaker)	2,150.00
Relaxa Rack (audio rack)	3,350.00



Overview

ANNOUNCING the RELAXA line of Magnetic Isolation Platforms!

S.A.P. Audio Int'l is proud to introduce the RELAXA line of Magnetic Isolation Platforms, the ultimate in audio and video component isolation solutions. Manufactured by our partners in Italy, Strumenti Acustici di Precisione (S.A.P. Audio of Salerno, Italy), the entire Relaxa line is now available in North America.

Building on their great success across Europe and Asia, the inventors of the award-winning Relaxa I went back into R&D with lots of feedback from clients, dramatically improving their product. Known as the Relaxa 3+ in Europe, the new line of isolation solutions will be branded simply Relaxa in North America.

This new version reflects a major upgrade in mechanical design and cosmetics, stylized with flair by a team of Italian architects who specialize in industrial design.

Vertical vibrations have a surprisingly large, negative impact on the performance of audio components. **Isolating your component via a Relaxa isolation stand will bring a clearly audible and often dramatic improvement in performance.**

Suggested Applications

RELAXA ISOLATION PLATFORM & RELAXA FEET

» **Digital Audio Sources (CD, SACD & DVD-Audio)** – Music gains analog sound: greater articulation, ambience, air and musicality. Why? Relaxa minimizes vibrations that trigger error-correction systems. The result: less errors, more music!

Many engineers believe that "digital" sound is not the digital technology itself, but the result of error-correction systems. Relaxa proves that digital sound can be musical, by allowing your digital audio player to perform to its maximum capability.

» **SACD/ DVD-Audio** – The higher density SACD and DVD-Audio discs renders the players even more sensitive to error causing vibrations. It is even more critical to isolate the high density data on SACD and DVD-Audio discs from external vibrations and minimizing error-correction.

» **Analog Sources (turntables)** – Place any turntable on Relaxa and get a completely new turntable! Like an instant upgrade! From the UK, we have received reports that amongst Linn Sondek owners, the Relaxa is gaining a reputation as the latest (and best) tweak. The standard suspension system is locked down (using transport screws), then the Sondek is placed on Relaxa. The result: a greatly improved turntable, capable of competing against much more advanced (and expensive) turntable designs.

Rigid, non-suspended turntables, such as SME, Rega, Nottingham Analogue, Basis, Acoustic Signature, etc. will benefit greatly from the isolation benefits of Relaxa. Even a vintage Thorens will benefit immensely! (S.A.P. Italy President Vincenzo Fratello uses a Relaxa with his SME 10 with great results!)

» **Video Sources (DVD-Video, LCD projectors)** – Placing your video equipment on a Relaxa results in noticeable improvement resolution, most noticeably in the form of more vivid colors and blacker blacks. The improvements are very easy to demonstrate. Insert a DVD disc in your player, and then pause during a scene that has considerable "black" in the frame. Study the image. Then, with the disk still in pause mode, place your DVD player on Relaxa. The "snow" will either disappear or be much less evident. Again, Relaxa helps by isolating and minimizing the use of the machine's error-correction devices.

» **Preamplifier (tube, solid state or phono-preamp)** – Just repeat the test with & without Relaxa in the same set-up. Place your preamplifier on a Relaxa, and hear a major improvement in resolution! The improvements include greater dynamic range, better imaging, and increased air and ambience.

RELAXA SPEAKER STAND

Placing your monitor loudspeaker on a Relaxa speaker stand also results in noticeable improvement in resolution. You should hear more stable imaging, tighter bass, and a more coherent soundstage. Your speaker will essentially float on the Relaxa speaker stand. Vibrations from the air, floor and walls are prevented from affecting the speaker cabinet when it is floating on a Relaxa speaker stand. The Relaxa speaker stand is also aesthetically pleasing, stylized with flair by a team of Italian architects. Standard sizes are 18" and 22", as well as a special version for our J-2001 Mk. II loudspeaker.

RELAXA RACK

For the ultimate isolation of audio components, we offer the Relaxa Rack. Consisting of four shelves that are each essentially a Relaxa isolation stand, the Relaxa Rack ensures that all of your electronic components are isolated from mechanical vibrations.

RELAXA ISOLATION PLATFORM

Size: 21.6" wide x 16.8" deep (540 mm x 420 mm)

Maximum Weight for equipment: the Relaxa stand, in its standard configuration of four Relaxa feet, can handle equipment up to 53 lb. (24 kg). By adding an optional 5th (center) foot, maximum weight increases to 68 lb. (31 kg).

RELAXA FEET

The Relaxa Feet can be used by themselves in applications where there is a problem of space, or for lightweight components. Any "stand alone" foot can handle 14 lb (6.5 kg).

RELAXA SPEAKER STAND

Available in 18" and 22" heights; special version available for J-2001 Mk. II

Each stand is equipped with three Relaxa feet; up to two additional Relaxa feet can be added at additional cost.

RELAXA RACK

Coming soon.

opinion



ken kessler

Unlike certain

colleagues, I prefer not to spend an inordinate amount of time playing with racks, tables and stands. They bore me. Their contribution is noteworthy but not as impressive as, say, a change of amplifier, and the majority of claims of sonic gains are 99% snake oil. I have far more respect for stand makers who

admit outright that their primary concern is styling, to help make audio equipment more BWFH-friendly. Now *that's* an improvement that I can appreciate.

At best, tables and supports should be regarded as necessities only in that you have to put your equipment on *something*. Over the years, I've restricted furniture reviewing to the occasional speaker stand or amplifier table. Readers with elephantine memories also know that I *do* address the concerns voiced by furniture makers in that I use a Mana rack, a GM Accessori table, IF Designs and Foundation speaker stands and two *HFN* Newsstands [previously available from the *HFN* Accessories Club around a decade ago].

Even so, there's a stand-out product which never leaves my listening room, one that's especially useful when assessing CD players or valve pre-amps. SAP's Relaxa 1 is a remarkably clever support which I raved about in July '01. It takes up the notion of applying 'magnetic levitation' support to hi-fi equipment, an extrapolation of the Sony ES 'feet' of some 20 years ago, which used opposing magnets to enable one's components to 'float' and therefore be isolated from the listening room. With maglev support, equipment suffers no mechanical/physical contact with *anything*.

Unlike individual magnetic feet — Sony's or even SAP's own, which can be purchased individually — Relaxa 1 uses a platform above a figure-H sub-chassis made from black Perspex. In each corner is powerful magnet, while the front right and rear left corners are also fitted with the two vertical rods. The top-plate is made from clear Perspex, with opposing magnets in each corner. In the corresponding corners, the upper plate is fitted with pairs of free-spinning wheels to ensure that any contact made by the guide system between top and bottom portions is relatively friction-less. The support area measures 500 x 380mm (wd), and it comfortably carries up to 20kg without the top-plate flexing. Although it can handle 25kg, it'll flex.

Let's not pick nits: there's bound to be some microscopic contact between the wheels and the stainless steel rods which simply help to locate the upper, floating portion, to keep it from flying off into space. So, yes, the platform 'touches' the lower portion in those areas. But that doesn't stop the Relaxa from providing even solidly-built CD players and pre-amps, as well as flimsier stuff more in need of isolation, with a reduction in microphony and background

hash, improved bass and dissipation of all manner of inexplicable minor distortions and colorations.

I wrote, "The Relaxa 1 imparted an air of solitude: It's as if you stuck whatever component you were using in another room." The hierarchy of "needy units" included flimsy and/or vintage valve pre-amps; phono stages, budget CD players and DACs. Now SAP has released a killer version of the Relaxa 1 equipment platform, larger at 560 x 440mm (wd), and constructed to allow 25kg support, or 30kg with a fifth, central foot.

Unlike Relaxa 1, Relaxa 3+ uses a tempered glass top-plate and a lower, X-shaped, metal platform. You sense immediately that it'll carry components that would have caused the Relaxa 1 to sag. But the design no longer relies on rods to keep the top in place; instead, a beautifully made pillar is screwed into each corner, a piston-like affair with a flat upper surface fitted with a O-ring. You simply set the glass on top of them; SAP has printed circles onto the glass to help you locate it precisely. The pillars are threaded, so you can level it precisely before you rest a component on top of it.

Word of caution: the Relaxa 3+ comes with an explicit warning about the magnets' strength. Do *not* use this beneath any form of tape recorder, VCR or turntable. Do *not* leave your cassettes, wrist watch or other 'susceptibles' near it.

Substituting it for the Relaxa 1, the 3+ somehow found more

At best, furniture such as tables and supports should be regarded as necessities only in that you have to put your equipment on *something*

nasties to disperse, imparting greater quietness to the 'silent' passages in recordings. Bass was a shade more solid, and treble showed more 'snap' and greater incision. It looks great, you can set it up in five minutes, and it does what it says on the box, so to speak. And now you can use it to support even some seriously hefty power amplifiers; it's gotta be a must if you use 300Bs. If there's any room for improvement, it can only be this: SAP should fit a spirit level in the centre of the glass platform. That's it. For me, Relaxa 3+ is above reproach.

When I first wrote about Relaxa 1, I mused, "What I'd really like to see is a four- or five-shelf system rack, with every single tier featuring a built-in Relaxa 1." At CES, SAP showed a multi-tier rack filled with Relaxa 3+ shelves. Don'tcha just love it when something terrific is made even more, er, terrific?

The Relaxa 3+ with four feet will probably sell for £500-600 when a UK distributor is appointed. If you can't wait, contact SAP at Largo Plebiscito 6, 84125 Salerno, Italy. Tel +39 089 250979 or e-mail sapmkt@tin.it. You can also visit www.sap-highend.com. 

