1.

Platine Verdier tips & tweaks

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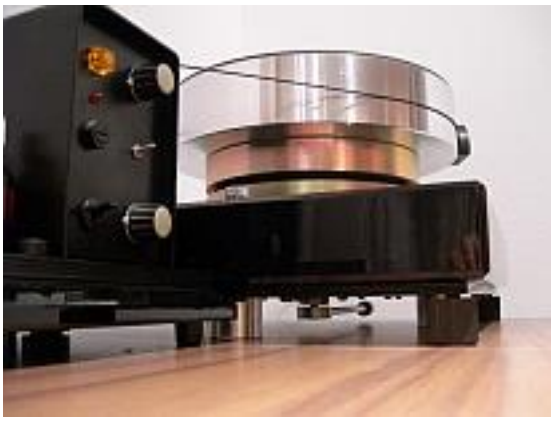


There are some alternative motor drives at the marketplace which convert to tape drive or otherwise. Some report on a better performance after replacement of the stock motor drive.
It is a pity to read on the internet that after buying a different motor, the original Verdier motor is sometimes classified as ‘bad’, and even to read a statement like: *throw it away.*

Why should the stock motor need replacement, and exactly what parameters causes 'bad'?
We experienced (and as measured* with the Feickert Adjust+ software) that the stock motor performs **superbly well**. So why do some Platine owners still decide to replace the motor?

There are some valid reasons why but all have very little to do with the motor drive.
The lucky side: it is caused by relatively small issues which are easy to fix.
There are grossly 3 causes of speed instability and unfortunately these work together.

If we take a close look at La Platine from a mechanical / acoustical viewpoint, we may sum up the design principles.
It is spring suspended, pneumatically damped, it has a separate motor, most use tread drive, and all come into play and influence each other.
There are La Platine set-ups to be seen in which tread drive is used, the motor has been put some 3 feet (..) away and with big tube amps underneath.. a sure recipe for speed problems.

The tread stretches during its life span, and is greatly influenced by humidity and temperature. Here is a first cause of instability. But it is not just the tread alone. La Platine is spring suspended, and once there is some jerking introduced, it will get into action. The tread causes uneven running by its very nature, and by stretching it also affects the level of the platter, which is influenced by putting tension on the tread. It is obvious that any jerking action is multiplied a 1000 times at the pick-up.

We assure that the stock motor has great drive, attack and tempo when the record offers. Our motor drive example is 25 years in service, and does tempo like a jackhammer.

*Measurements with the Feickert Adjust+ software show a weighted 0,05% speed deviation.

2.

The V shaped pulley will eventually clog up (see photo added on page 13) with debris and so a speed bump occurs. In any case clean the pulley regularly. Any small deviation at this point greatly affects further down the line.
Another point of attention, but presumably so after many years of use.
It concerns the motor attachment inside the housing and understandably few have looked so far.

The picture shows the stock assembly.
If disassembled to this point, one may feel that the rubber grommets have some play which is not a good idea at this particular section. With a jerking tread drive and the spring suspended 16 Kg mass platter these are potential ingredients for speed instability. Things will add up..

3.

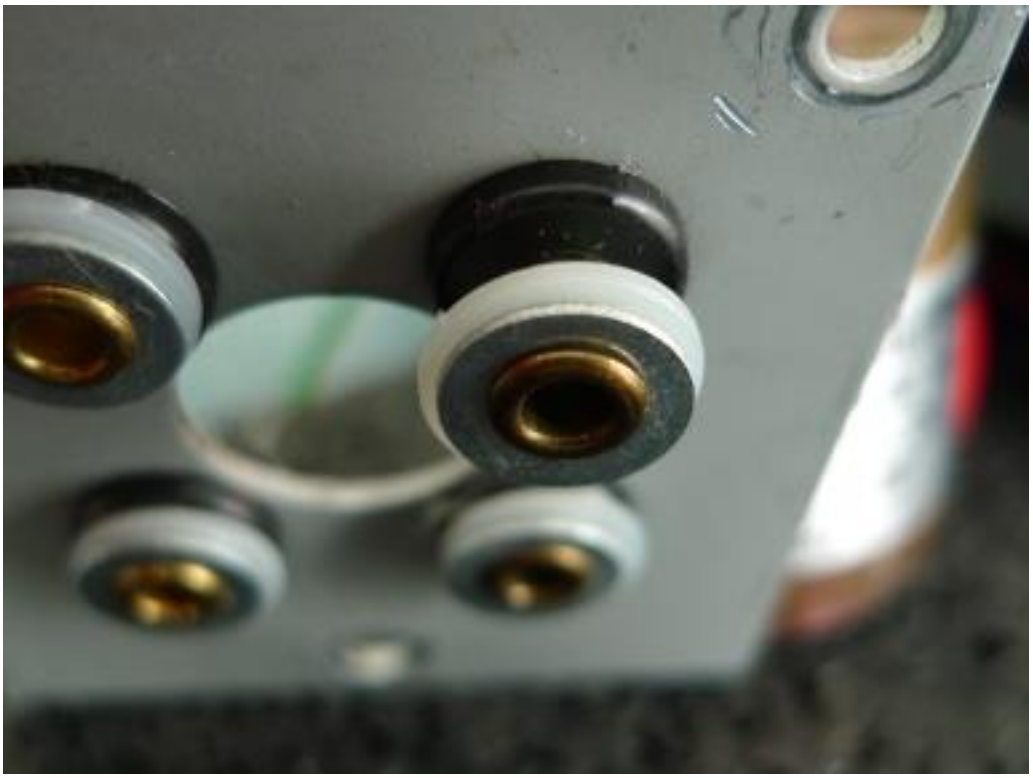
Now comes the good part: It will cost almost nothing to fix this part..

The stock situation. There is a brass collar inside the rubber grommet. The assembly may glide up and down, and over time gets play axial and radial. The rubber itself will dry and harden out during the years so here again: Things add up.

4.

Insert a little Teflon washer from the local hardware store to fill up the play.

5.



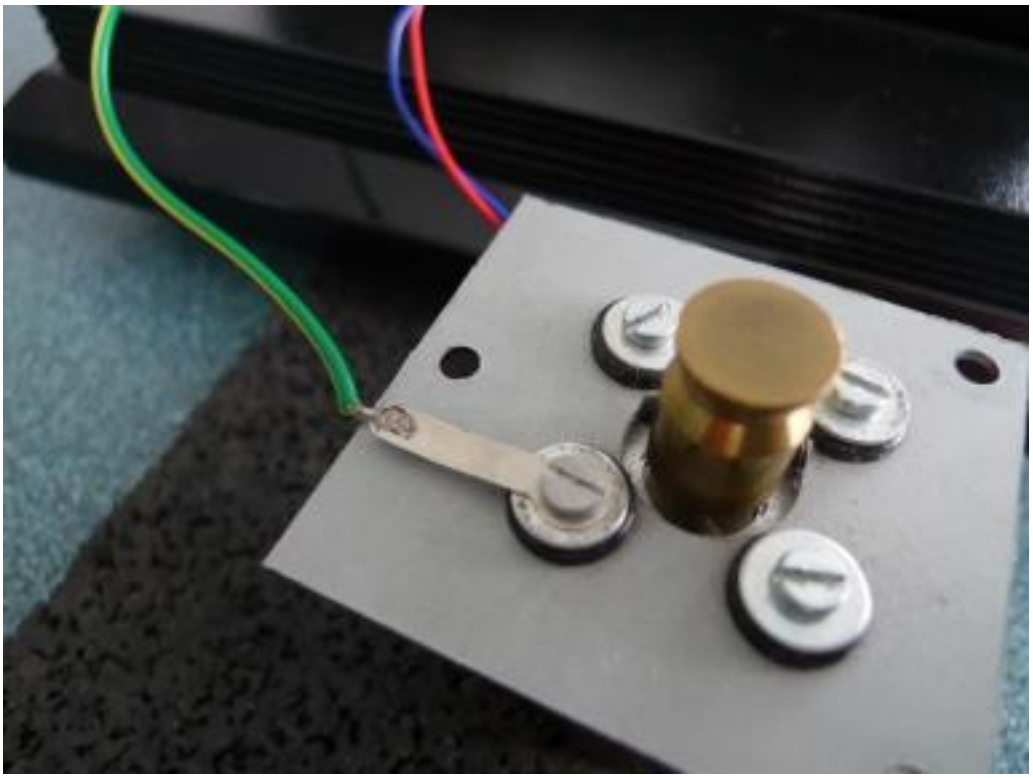
4 washers and assembly put together.

6.

Tightened up. no play, no vibration / resonance at this critical stage.

7.

Don’t forget to attach the earth wire.



Now we got this modified & problem fixed at the beginning.
We are confident that any Platine owner will be very pleased with this mod.

8.

The DC feeding.

This is one of the kits we produced at that time, any experienced DIY may assemble one.
Notice the digital display, a nice and recommended option.
We tried many battery types, and the dry cell Yuasa works great. Don't go cheap here.
6x 3Ah batteries sum up to 18Ah. We experienced that 18Ah works great.
Always keep the batteries fully charged at >12,5V when playing.
The Yuasa batteries serve about 10 years from our experience.

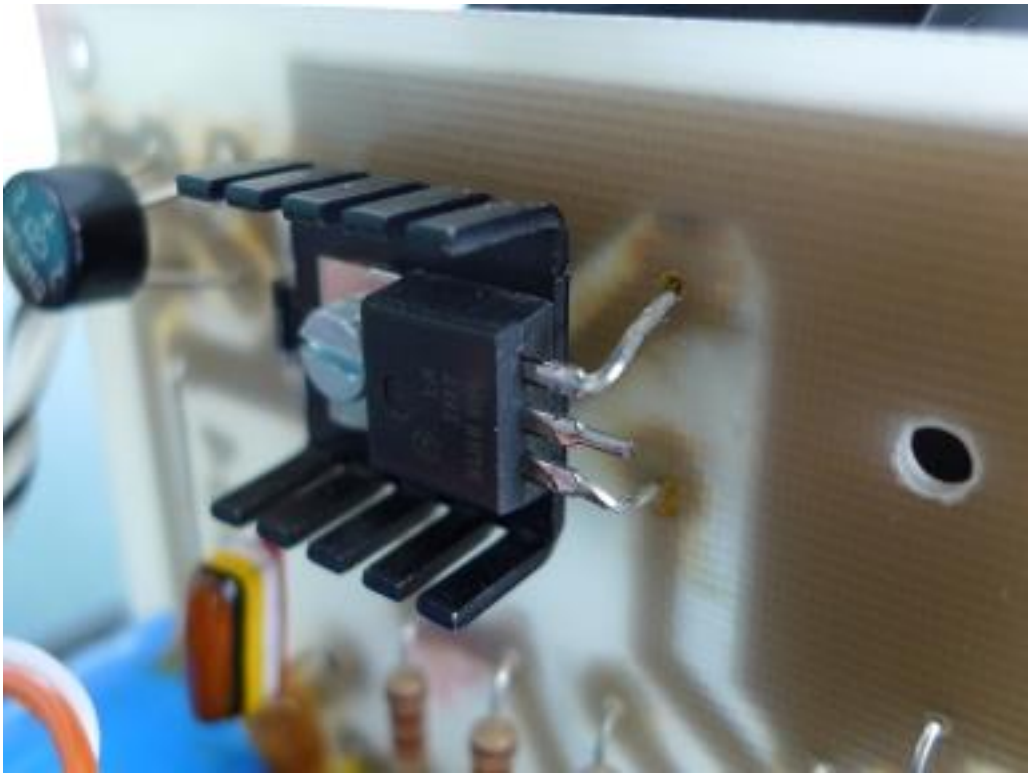
9.

The internals. It can be made and look as professional as one would like.

10.

Next topic:

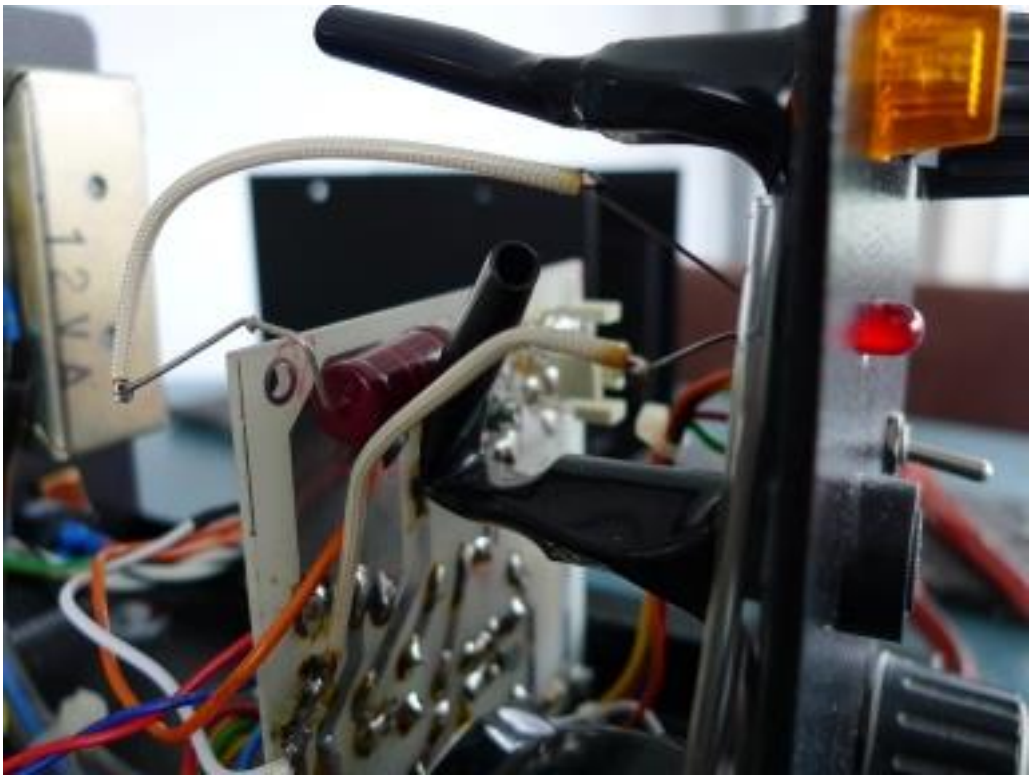
The **LM317T** (part numbers may differ through the years)
Now this part will either last a lifetime or break up at a moment you don't want it to and if it fails the speed accuracy is instantly gone. We had this one replaced after some 8 years starting from new. (our La Platine example is of 1995 vintage)
The cost is a few cents each, so order a couple and be rest assured you have a spare one when it eventually may happen.



11.

Next topic:

the DC wiring conversion.



Here we see a red led put at the front to show motor running and the white and orange wires routed from the DC input into the circuit board. Though the picture is not very clear, the DC wires must be soldered to the same points as the stock wires. We have left the stock transformer in place, disconnected and isolated the wire ends.
This is indeed a problem free and easy modification.

Please note that DC feeding does not solve any of the issues showed earlier…

12.

Some electronic parts involved.

We are confident that any La Platine owner may benefit from these tips & tweaks.

La Platine continues to impress, concerning the design is dated 1978..

Last but not least, we want to express our sincere thankfulness to the late

Monsieur J.C. Verdier

You do not buy my turntable, you get married to it..

Keep em spinning.

Rudolf R. Ploeger
www.callas-audio.nl
Netherlands

13.

Photo added: the V pulley in close up, any debris at this point, means huge differences at the platter. It is advised to keep this part thoroughly clean.