

WATSON'S

RECORD CLEANING MACHINE

Version V1.0 EN
6-2017

Dear Customer,

Thank you for choosing the Watson's Record Cleaning Machine. We've spent a lot of time to offer you a good quality product and a great value for your money ;-)

To avoid misuse and achieve the best possible results, we ask you to read the user manual completely before starting to use your machine. Please make a special effort to read the important notes below.

We wish you good times playing your records,

The Watson's Team

IMPORTANT

Please note the following points before you start:

1. Check your mains voltage and the voltage indicated on the back of the Watson's RCM. They should match.
2. Be aware that water and cleaning fluids should never come into contact with electricity.
3. Only connect this machine to earthed mains
4. Only use this machine with dry hands
5. Do not use foaming cleaning fluids
6. This machine is not intended as a toy for children



The Watsons Record Cleaning Machine carries the CE mark, which was first affixed January 2017.

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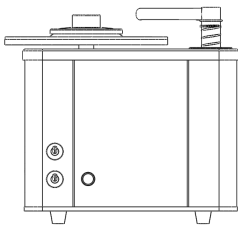
1. Unpacking

The packaging of the Watson's RCM is specially designed to protect your machine during transport. Should you ever need to ship your machine we recommend using its original box.

Please be careful during unpacking. Use both hands when lifting the machine out of the box.

WARNING: Do not lift the machine by the platter as this will put excessive pressure on the platter bearing.

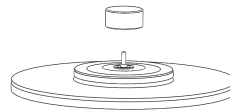
In the box you will find the following parts:



1



2



3



4



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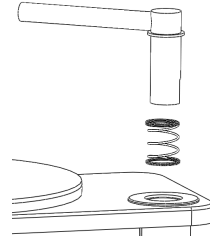
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1. Watson's Machine
2. Vacuum arm with spring
3. Clamp with screw fastener
4. Power cord
5. Brush
6. Application bottle

2. Set-up

Place your machine on a stable, waterproof surface. The Watson's should only be operated when in a vertical, upright position.

Take out the vacuum arm and the spring. The spring fits loosely on the vacuum arm. Insert them together into the hole in the top of the Watson's, as illustrated.



Remove the white protection paper from the platter; it's only for protection during transport.

Make sure both switches on the front are in the down (OFF) position. Insert the power cord into the back of the Watson's.

Make sure that the mains voltage indicated on the back of the machine is the same as the voltage at your premises.

Plug the other end of the power cord into a wall socket. For safety the wall socket must have earth contacts. The machine should not be operated unless it is properly earthed.

Check the machine's platter rotation by switching the upper switch on the front on and off. (up=ON)
Then switch the lower switch on the front on and off (up=ON). The machine should apply suction if working correctly.

Your Watson's is now ready for use.

3. Description of the process

The Watson's Record Cleaning Machine is designed to help you clean your records. This is not an automated process. The cleaning part is primarily done by you when you apply a cleaning fluid and then spread it over the record's surface and remove the dirt from the grooves using the supplied brush by applying gentle pressure.

The Watson's strong points are that it offers you a stable rotating platform and removes fluid and dirt very efficiently by way of its vacuum arm. Because of the strong suction no fluid will remain.

Cleaning your records with a special record cleaning fluid is the best option you have. The Watson's fluid softens grease and releases dirt by forming 'micelles' in the fluid. The cell structure of micelles can enclose floating particles and prevent them from sticking to the record's surface again. It keeps the dirt in the fluid, not on the surface. So, once the dirt is loosened from the record's surface, it will not stick to the surface again, but will be extracted by the vacuum.

Watson's fluid is not just water with some added alcohol. It is a blend of alcohols and detergents, which is harmless for your records but effective against grease and dirt. This blend forms the right micelle size and leaves no excessive residue. As our fluid also contains a small quantity of alcohol it should NOT be used for shellac records.

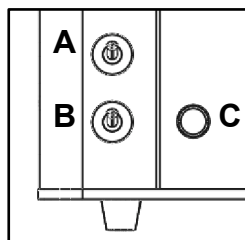
The Watson's machine rotates in a single direction. There is no need to clean in two directions; record grooves don't have saw-tooth or square wave shapes because a record-cutter is not able to cut them. Cleaning in one direction is sufficient. You also don't need to put a lot of pressure on the brush, gently brushing will do.

If you want perfect cleaning, then washing a second time with a special 'after-wash' fluid will remove the last molecules left on the surface as no vacuum is able to remove the last molecular layer.

4. Description of the machine

On the front of the Watson's you'll find two switches and a vacuum control knob. The top switch is to rotate the platter; the bottom switch is for switching on the vacuum, the vacuum control knob makes it possible to vary the strength of the vacuum's suction. This control knob is generally set at the halfway mark where the machine makes less sound and the vacuum is strong enough to do its job.

Switch A	up = platter ON
Switch B	up = vacuum ON
Knob C	Vacuum strength

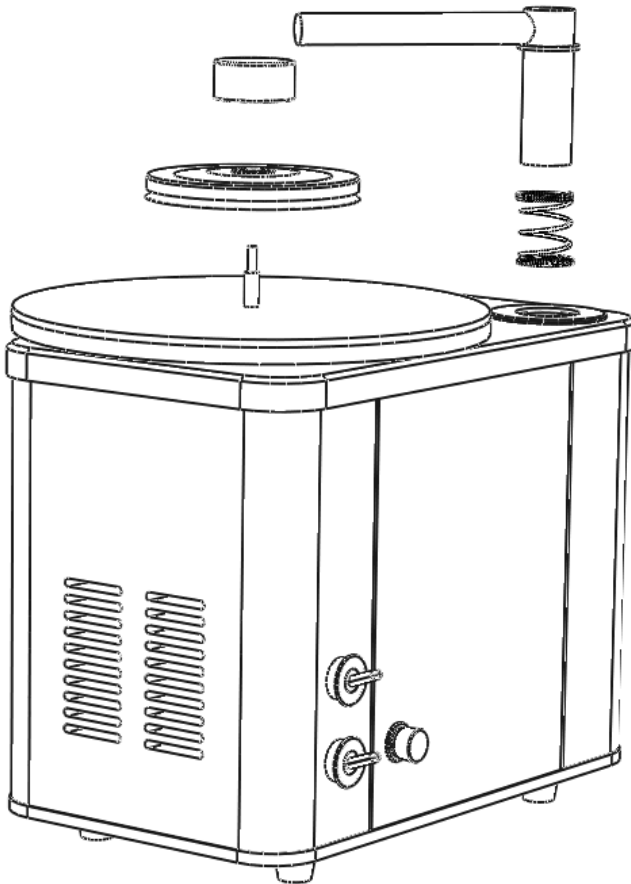


The Watson's platter is smaller than a record. On machines with larger platters some cleaning fluid often seeps in between the record and the platter. So, after cleaning one side you would flip over the record, and the fluid would then get on the just cleaned side of the record. Watson's has resolved this problem by using a smaller platter.

The spindle is the centre of the platter. The supplied clamp with screw locks the record to the platter. The clamp's rubber ring keeps the record label dry and the force applied by the screw holds the record steady on the platter. The screw tightens the clamp **counter** clockwise. So when the platter starts rotating and you hold the screw, the clamp tightens itself.

The vacuum arm supplied with the Watson's is designed for use with 12-inch records. The arm with a separate spring fits into the hole on the top of the machine. The spring causes the arm to lift up quickly after the vacuum is switched off. The felt strips prevent the vacuum arm from coming into contact with the softer vinyl record. The strips can be replaced, see the maintenance section for instructions.

At the back of the Watson's you'll find a drainage hose. This hose is used to empty the waste-fluid container inside the machine. A small clip at the end of the hose prevents the used fluid from dripping out and air from coming in during the vacuum cycle. The waste-fluid container has a capacity of 100ml. It should be emptied after cleaning 20 records or before storing the machine for an extended period of time. You can find more information about the waste-fluid container in the maintenance section.



5. Cleaning a record

Before starting the cleaning process, prepare the cleaning fluid. Our fluid is sold as a concentrate that, when combined with 900ml demineralized water, gives you 1 litre of cleaning fluid. Pour some of this mixture into the Watson's application bottle.

Keep a towel on hand to wipe up any spilled fluid from machine and table.

The record cleaning process in short:

1. Place the record on the platter
2. Tighten clamp gently, counter clockwise
3. Platter ON
4. Fluid and Brush, 4 rotations
5. Vacuum ON
6. Vacuum arm on record, 2 rotations
7. Vacuum OFF
8. Platter OFF

Explanation of the above steps:

1. Remove the clamp by turning its screw clockwise. Take the record out of its sleeve and put it on the platter.
2. Put clamp on the record and gently turn the screw counter clockwise. Using too much force can damage your record and the spindle.
3. Use upper switch to start the platter rotation.
4. Apply fluid with the application bottle. Spread the fluid evenly with the brush. Then brush for four rotations to lift the dirt so that it is suspended in the fluid.
5. Switch on vacuum with the lower switch.
6. Rotate the vacuum arm so that it is positioned above the record, the arm will move down on its own due to the powerful suction. Use the vacuum for two rotations.
7. Turn off the vacuum with the lower switch.
8. Turn off platter rotation with the upper switch.

The Watson's is easy to use but first you have to get acquainted with the process. In the beginning practice the cleaning technique on an old record until you feel you've mastered the process.

Applying the cleaning fluid to the record will often go wrong on the first try. It is key to use enough fluid to create an evenly spread film on the record's surface but not so much that fluid spills over the edge. Should this occur, remove the excess fluid from the machine and table as soon as you've finished cleaning this side of the record.

How to get perfect results?

If you take your time you'll get the best results, records will not get cleaner and sound better using any other method.

Use our Watson's cleaning fluid to clean your record, but after two rotations of brushing let the fluid do its work for one full minute. Remove the fluid by vacuum and do the whole process again with our after-wash fluid. Again, after brushing, take a minute to let the fluid do its work. Vacuum again.

Now play the record and listen. Convinced?

Don't forget to empty the waste fluid tank inside the Watson's and to inspect the felt strips for damages or wear.

If you feel unsure about cleaning records, please watch our instruction video.



6. Maintenance

The machine:

The Watson's machine itself is maintenance free, just wipe it now and then with a damp cloth.

Inside there are no user serviceable parts. The only part you can replace yourself is the fuse at the back.

The mains fuse:

If a problem occurs the Watson's will blow its fuse. First remove the power cord so that no voltage is present. Then replace the fuse which you'll find at the back of the machine, below the power cord socket.

Replace the fuse only once, if it blows again your machine needs professional help. Contact your dealer, **do not open it yourself**.

Felt strips:

The felt strips on the vacuum arm are replaceable. Inspect them now and then. When they become dirty you can clean them with a toothbrush. When they became flat or part of the felt is missing you should replace the strips.

Peel the strips off the vacuum arm and clean the arm with an alcohol-based cleaner. If any residual glue is present on the arm, you can remove the glue with paraffin oil.

Now, apply the new felt strips by removing the protective backing and sticking them alongside the suction slot. Take care not to obstruct the suction slot with the new felt strips as this will reduce performance.

For 7-inch and 10-inch arms you'll need to cut the new felt strips to the correct size.

Emptying the waste-fluid container:

After cleaning 20 to 30 records you'll need to empty the waste-fluid container. How often you empty the container depends on how much and what kind of fluid you use and if you use the 'after-wash fluid' following normal cleaning.

To empty the waste-fluid container, hold the end of the hose below the level of the bottom of the machine. Don't tilt the machine; it will empty completely when standing vertical. Loosen the black clamp on the end of the hose and release the fluid into a glass or a bottle. You do not have to remove the clamp from the hose; just releasing the clamp is sufficient. Do not forget to close the clamp after emptying.

Cleaning the waste-fluid container:

Before storing the Watson's for an extended period of time, you should clean the waste-fluid container. If you do not clean it, any fluid remaining in the tank will evaporate, leaving residual dirt as a solid on the bottom of the tank.

Remove the vacuum arm from its position and pour some water (max 100ml) into the vacuum-arm hole and empty the water through the hose as described in the 'emptying the waste-fluid container' section. Repeat three times.

7. Technical specifications

Construction principle:	Rotate platter Remove fluid by vacuum
Power consumption:	Vacuum 600 Watt Platter rotation 15 Watt
Mains power:	230 volt 50 Hz or 115 volt 60 Hz
Fuse rating:	5AT (230v) or 10AT (115v)
Weight:	8.5 kg
Dimensions:	305(w) x 185(d) x 300(h)
Packing dimensions:	400(w) x 330(d) x 430(h)
Warranty:	2 years from date of invoice

8. Warranty and disclaimer

We offer a two-year warranty on the Watson's Record Cleaning Machine. This warranty does NOT include costs for shipping the machine to us or for return shipping.

The following will void the warranty:

- using foaming cleaning fluids
- using acid-based cleaning fluids
- using the machine for other than its intended function
- using the machine in a manner different from what is described in this manual
- opening the machine
- modifying the machine

Watson's Vinylcare does not cover any claims of damage to records or any other damage caused by use of the Watson's Record Cleaning Machine.

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