



## Pro-Ject Leather-IT mat



PRICE: £50  
WEBSITE: PROJECT-AUDIO.COM

**THE PRO-JECT LEATHER-IT TURNTABLE MAT** is available in two colours: grey and black. As the name implies, it is manufactured from leather and is designed to fit over the centre spindle and sit comfortably on a 12 inch platter. The manufacturer claims that the mat offers a better playback surface than the pure cork or felt alternatives. It's designed to improve performance by reducing vibration transfer to the playing surface, allowing the cartridge to deliver a more stable high-fidelity performance.

It is often noted that felt mats, often supplied as standard with many decks, have a limited damping ability which can be a problem when used with metal platters and although they give a smooth contact between record and platter, they can actually generate static charges while playing. That means that felt mats often collect dust which can end up being transferred to the record. There is also a view that thick rubber mats can over-dampen the record and, worse still, can have an electrical isolation effect which, as with felt mats, tends to leave the static charges on the record and result in audible clicks.

The high friction, but smooth surface also allows for good record rotation with negligible slip so a record clamp is not required with this turntable mat. The mat is obviously made from high quality leather and the underside has been intentionally left with a rough and fluffy leather finish, whereas the top is a beautifully finished smooth surface. In use, the sound quality is enhanced giving a noticeably better-controlled sound overall and great imaging.

**VERDICT** ★★★★★ AN EXCELLENT MAT which is kind to records and yet grips them firmly on the platter