

# AUDIO TEST

STEREO | STREAMING | HIGH END

Nur  
5,99€



Arcam Radia ST5  
Block BB-200  
Bowers & Wilkins

TEST PDF  
DUAL CS 529



Lautsprecher der Zukunft

## HIGH-END-EXTRAVAGANZA

Monitor Audio Hyphn & Magnepan 3.7i im Test

### ANLAGE DES MONATS

Piega x HiFi Rose:  
Geniales Joint Venture  
im ersten Kombitest



### DER VOLLAUTOMAT 2.0

Dual CS 529: HiFi-Plattenspieler  
mit innovativer App-Steuerung



### DIE NEUE MITTELKLASSE

TEAC-Kombi: D/A-Wandler &  
CD-Player der 500-Serie im Test



**AUDIO TEST**

4.2024

**Excellent**

(92%)

Dual CS 529

www.likehifi.de

**AUDIO TEST**

4.2024

**Innovation  
of the month**

Dual CS 529

www.likehifi.de



Dual CS 529

# Symbiosis of comfort and sound

**With the recent resurgence in popularity of vinyl records, the demand for simple playback options is also increasing. With the CS 529, Dual proves that good comfort, fine sound quality and an attractive price are all possible.**

Simon Mendel

Credits: Auerbach Verlag



table uses a belt drive. A ground belt is used for better synchronization. The belt transfers the torque from the motor to the turntable. The motor uses direct current (DC). The speed is optically recorded and controlled, which enables a constant rotation speed. To ensure that the motor is decoupled from the rest of the system, it sits in a vibration-damped mount.

The turntable is made of die-cast aluminum and measures 30.5 centimeters in diameter. It sits on a hardened steel axle, which in turn is inserted into a precision brass bushing. The frame, platter and motor alone do not make a turntable, however, the tonearm is missing. With the CS 529, Dual uses a fully gimbal tonearm. Four fine pivot ball bearings are used. The bearing construction is made of massive aluminum. The tonearm makes a solid impression and offers sufficient adjustment options.

The cartridge can be easily changed thanks to the SME bayonet lock. In fact, this is not absolutely necessary for the time being, as the Dual CS 529 is equipped with an Ortofon 2M Red cartridge. This MM system enjoys a good reputation as an entry-level needle. You have certainly already read our large comparison test of the brand new Ortofon 2MR series on the previous pages. Thanks to its transparent, clear sound and its flexibility, it is a good partner for many record players. On the back, next to the usual RCA and ground connection, there is a small toggle switch. This can be used to switch the integrated phono preamp on or off. The classic record player design is rounded off with a plastic cover.

### Handling

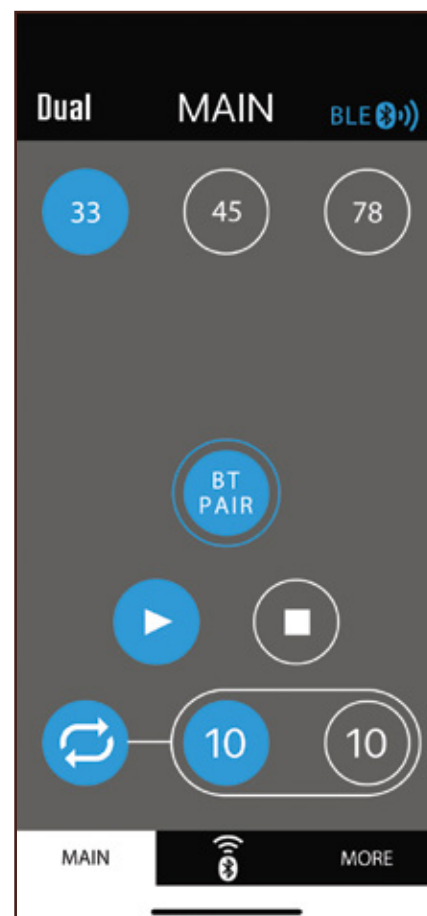
Now, as already mentioned, the Dual CS 529 is a fully automatic turntable. This means that the record player does most of the work on its own. It puts the needle on the record, lifts it off again at the end and stops the platter. Dual uses a simple but ingenious operating system here. There is a large rotary control and two buttons. If you turn the control, you can cycle through the different rotation

speeds. You can choose between 33 1/3, 45 and 78 revolutions per minute. By pressing the control, we start playback. As if by magic, the needle lifts up and rests on the record. The platter starts moving quickly and the music starts playing less than 3 seconds after pressing the start button. Once the record has finished, the needle lifts off the vinyl again and the tone arm moves back to its starting position. If you want to listen to the same record several times, you can activate the repeat function at the touch of a button. Instead of stopping playback, the CS 529 puts the needle back at the beginning. The second button is labeled "Pairing" and has a dual function. The CS 529 is a state-of-the-art fully automatic record player, as Dual has equipped the

Once the largest address for record players in the country, the core brand of the company Dual Deutschland GmbH is now what was the company's expertise 90 years ago: record players. Therefore, our test candidate from Dual today is no surprise: the CS 529. This is fully automatic and after we already tested the Dual CS 429 in AUDIO TEST issue 07/23 (score 89%), we are excited to see how the CS 529 will perform.

### Features

The Dual CS 529 has a truly classic design. The frame is made of MDF with a sub-chassis. This is decoupled from the main chassis with rubber dampers. There are two color options: black and walnut veneer. The fully automatic turn-



*The CS 529 is the first record player with its own app. This functions as a remote control and is an absolute plus point of the device*



*The fully automatic turntable is easy to operate. A control knob and two buttons, that's all you need*



*The fully cardanic tonearm is anchored in a pivot ball bearing, which is made of solid aluminum*



*Dual includes the 2M Red from Ortofon as a cartridge. You can find a test of this and other cartridges on pages 62 to 66*

CS 529 with Bluetooth and an integrated phono stage. On the one hand, you can connect the record player to Bluetooth headphones or speakers. All you have to do is put both devices into pairing mode, and the connection is paired in no time. The second function of the pairing button is an absolute novelty. The Dual CS 529 is, as far as we know, the first record player with an app. The CS 529 app turns the smartphone into a remote control, allowing us to remotely control all of the functions mentioned above from the comfort of our sofa. This actually works completely smoothly and lightning fast. That's real convenience and a statement to the competitors! The fully automatic system works not only with records in the classic 12-inch format, but also with 7-inch singles. In order for the CS 529 to know which size is on the record, you have to flip a small lever on the tonearm base. Records in a 25 centimetre format – i.e. 10 inches – cannot be played fully automatically. But you don't have to use the convenience features. You can also put the needle on yourself. If we move the needle over the vinyl, the platter starts to rotate automatically.

### Sound test

We start our sound test with the Berlin music producer Fritz Kalkbrenner. We put on the album „True Colors“ from 2020. We first listen to the double LP of smooth, melancholic electronic beats and Kalkbrenner's smoky vocals without the integrated phono stage. The title „Last Summer“ grooves pleasantly from the speakers. The warm voice sounds round and tangible. Above all, we like how the electronic beat comes into its own. The bass always remains balanced. We activate the internal pre-amp and of course plug the CS 529 into the aux-in on the amplifier from the phono input. In fact, the CS 529 also cuts a fine figure with the integrated phono stage activated. The only thing you lose for this convenience is a little depth.

Next we continue with the British post rock band Black Country, New Road. We put on the second album „Ants from Up There“, which was released at the



The CS 529 has an integrated phono preamplifier, which can also be deactivated if required

beginning of 2022, after which singer Isaac Wood left the band. The closer „Basketball Shoes“ is a 12-minute piece consisting of three parts. It starts very cautiously with quiet, slowly increasing guitars. Here the CS 529 proves its great talent for a dynamic performance. It transports the low-level attacks into the room with astonishing subtlety. The song contains a very spatial drum recording. The direct signals of the individual drums are practically inaudible. The drums are wide, spacious and a bit dirty in terms of sound. This spatial information is reproduced well and very naturally by the fully automatic machine. At around the 3.5 minute mark, Isaac Woods' emotional vocals begin. They sound round and full. Brass and strings then open up the entire width of the stage, after which the composition collapses. In the second part, the CS 529 presents crisp and lively transients. The percussive elements are very tangible and even the somewhat wild passages are cleanly sampled. We move on to the last act of the title, which is very similar to the first, but much more theatrical and dramatic. Distorted guitars, an opera choir and deep basses suit the Dual record player just as well here.

It is astonishing what sound quality this fully automatic record player achieves. You have to remember that a large part of the price point of just under 1100

euros (Editor's note: this price applies to the test model in walnut veneer, the CS 529 is already available in the black color variant for 999 euros) is made up of the electronics of the playback automation. It is therefore a certain balancing act to combine good sound quality with comprehensive automation. Especially since Dual does not want to lose sight of an affordable price point either. We therefore do not imagine Dual's task to be easy, which is why we are all the more pleased that they have kept their promise with the CS 529. This is indeed a symbiosis of comfort and sound and Dual shows that the two can go hand in hand. Hats off! ■

## SUMMARY

**The Dual CS 529 comes around the corner with the not entirely immodest advertising slogan „The reference for fully automatic turntables in the 21st century“. But Dual actually proves that extensive comfort and competent sound are not mutually exclusive. Dual also keeps an eye on the price, which makes the CS 529 a truly recommendable fully automatic record player.**

## FEATURES

- Bluetooth
- app controlled
- internal preamplifier

<b>Advantages</b>	+ extensive comfort + high flexibility + control via app possible
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<b>Disadvantages</b>	- none
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## FEATURES

### General

<b>Device class</b>	<b>Turntables</b>
<b>Price band</b>	<b>Mid range</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Dual</b>
<b>Model</b>	<b>CS 529</b>
Price (UVP)	from 999 Euro
Dimensions (H/W/D)	43,5 × 14,5 × 36,7 cm
Weight	6,7 kg
Information	www.dual.de

### Technical Information (manufacturer)

Cartridge (mounted)	Ortofon 2M Red (MM)
Motor	DC-Motor
Type of drive	Belt-drive
Control type	Fully automatic
Inputs	1 × RCA
Phono-preamp included	Yes
DAC included	Yes
Bluetooth	Yes

## BEWERTUNG

Reproduction quality	<div style="width: 83%;"></div>	55/60
Equipment/workmanship	<div style="width: 14%;"></div>	14/15
User-friendliness	<div style="width: 13%;"></div>	13/15
Appreciation/Depreciation		plus 1
Interim result		83 of 90 points
Price-performance	Very Good	9/10
<b>Result</b>	<div style="width: 92%; background-color: red;"></div>	<b>Excellent 92%</b>