

record albums

I have one word for you — vinyl. Also known as **L**ong-**P**laying records. Remember those black frisbees you grew up spinning non-stop on some beat-up turntable, ever mindful of accumulating dust, scratches and the quality of the needle.

In today's Napster world, vinyl is an afterthought. Most kids under 20 look askance when they hear the word "album." Why buy something that occupies so much space and is more delicate than John Daly's temperament?

I'll tell them why: The sound produced by the grooves on a vinyl album is still richer, fuller, warmer and more intricate than the compressed coldness of compact discs. Sure, there's nostalgia that comes from owning a working turntable. But grooving to a record is an incomparable listening treat.

You may be shocked to know that you can still buy a new record player and that there is treasure trove of cheap, classic albums available online and in dusty shops across the country — places like my hometown shop, Love Garden Sounds, in sleepy Lawrence, Kan.

While there are many wonderful

GOING THROUGH YOUR STACKS OF WAX ISN'T JUST NOSTALGIC —
IT'S A MUSIC LOVERS NIRVANA **BY MARK LUCE**



things about being reintroduced to records, the first thing you'll notice is that you actually *listen* to the recordings, rather than merely having music on in the background. But whether you jam to jazz, roll to rock or chime to classical, it is possible to build an impressive collection of vinyl for one-half to one-third the cost of a \$17.98 CD. It will take some digging, haunting in the shops cool enough to still stock albums and online search skills, but the reward for the hunt is worth it.

So let's spend some of your money. At J&R Music World, one of the best online electronic spots (www.jandr.com), you can buy an AIWA PXE860 Turntable for \$119. It comes with a cartridge and is fitted to use in the auxiliary port of most integrated bookshelf systems. Now you need some outstanding starter records. These five could get you started:

■ Frank Sinatra & Antonio Carlos Jobim — *The Chairman goes Bossa*

Nova. Indispensible. \$11.46 at (www.musicstack.com).

■ John Coltrane — *Blue Train*. His first record on Blue Note. \$6.99 at (www.gatefoldrecords.com).

■ Led Zeppelin — *Houses of the Holy*. Give no quarter to this hallmark rock recording. \$8 at (www.platterpus.com).

■ Glenn Gould — *Goldberg Variations*. Bach for the brainy. \$8.23 at (www.cyrcomusic.com).

■ Elvis Costello — *Armed Forces*. One of the Brit's finest. \$12 at (www.memorylanerecords.com).

So for around \$170, you are totally set up and ready to spin. Listening to records again is infectious. Once you make the jump, you'll find yourself stopping by garage sales, combing flea markets and tickling the keyboard for hidden LP gold.

And the first time the needle drops — making that unmistakable pop and slide — you'll find yourself transported back in time but forward in your appreciation of great music.

Happy spinning.

Mark Luce is a free-lance writer who listens to his stacks of wax in Lawrence, Kan.

DAN BEEDY

GOLFDOM, Volume 57, Number 5, (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly by Advanstar Communications Inc., 131 W First St., Duluth, MN 55802-2065. Subscription rates: One year \$30 (U.S. and possessions), \$49 (Canada and Mexico) and \$78 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside the U.S. and Canada at \$45 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5 (U.S. and possessions), \$7 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10 (U.S. and possessions), \$14 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16 (all other countries); add \$6 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to GOLFDOM, 131 W 1st St, Duluth, MN 55802-2065. Canadian G.S.T. Number: R-124213133, Publications

Mail Agreement number 1436694. Printed in the U.S.A. Copyright (c)2001 by Advanstar Communications Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by Advanstar Communications for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923, phone 978-750-8400, fax 978-750-4470. call for copying beyond that permitted by Sections 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law. For those not registered with the CCC, send permission request in writing to Advanstar Marketing Services, Attn: Permissions, 7500 Old Oak Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44130 or fax to 440-891-2740.