



by Winn L. Rosch

Can You Still Live with Your Stereo?

Time has a way of tip-toeing past us. Before we realize it, the new car has depreciated so badly scrap dealers won't touch it, the last Congressmen we voted for are eligible for parole, and we discover those faint lines behind the tuning dial of our receiver are actually cobwebs. Hi-fi components fortunately give us the opportunity to outrun the ravages of time by upgrading each part of our stereo system as technology leaves it by the wayside. But when is the proper time to replace a component in a venerable stereo system?

The primary purpose in getting new components is to improve the sound. When new

advances overtake the capabilities of your equipment you'll end up listening to sub-standard fidelity even if your equipment was once top of the line. More importantly, as you learn more about sound reproduction and music through the years, your ears will become more critical. You may actually outgrow your system.

The best way to decide when and what to update is to compare what you have to anything and everything else that is currently available. A Herculean task, to be sure. But if you know what to listen for and how to properly focus the scope of your search, your quest will be not only manageable but

worthwhile.

If you're not happy with what you hear through what you have, it's time to find out what's wrong and where improvement is needed.

The following is a brief guide to stereo system symptomology that, when properly applied with a liberal dosage of common sense, should lead to a complete cure of your listening problems.

The best place to begin is with the inherently simplest piece of stereo gear, the turntable. All one has to do is spin records around — and be able to do it so smoothly and accurately its workings