



AUDIO engineering society, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Telex: AES620298UW

PLEASE REPLY TO:

Journal Office

1980 March 17

Mr. Johan van Leer
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Mr. van Leer:

I have received your letter of February 5, including attachments on the development of the moving magnetic phonograph cartridge. I note from your attachments that you made a disclosure to the Philips patent attorney, but apparently a patent was never granted. However, I note that a description of the pickup appeared in the Philips Technical Review.

In the patent that was issued by the United States Patent Office to Shure Brothers, the examiner cited the Philips article and therefore must have been aware of the design features of the Philips phonograph cartridge. Considering the fact that, with this knowledge, a patent was granted to Shure, I must assume that Shure added to the design.

At this time, I cannot evaluate the situation that existed then at Shure Brothers, and, as far as the Journal is concerned, we must confine our reportage to the facts as they are shown in the records.

Sincerely,

Robert Fehr
Editor

RF:jac

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EDWARD TATNALL CANBY
BOX 132, TOWN ST.
WEST CORNWALL, CT 06796

Dec 29, 1980

Dear Mr Leer,

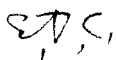
I have received your material on the moving magnet phono cartridge, forwarded direct from the AUDIO office. I certainly will not "ignore" it, since the question is an interesting one on many grounds. I still have several of the original Dynetic arms and cartridges in my "museum" of old equipment, and in fact am using a Shure V-15 Type IV cartridge at present.

Mr Bauer was a good friend of mine and I had an immense admiration for his abilities. But I know, as do you, that there are many facets to every person who has real ability, and I could not possibly know all details of Mr Bauer's character and life. We both are aware, too, that large corporations, even when acting through their individual officers, are uniformly soul-less, being intent on their own survival! Philips, surely, no less than Shure, and a thousand others, as well. I would not be at all surprised if indeed some of your ideas were absorbed by Shure in the person of B. B. Bauer, one of its officers; on the other hand, it might equally be true that you are technically wrong.

That is as far as I can go. I am not an audio engineer but a musician by training, nor am I an investigative reporter into legal facts. I could not possibly write anything of real authority, pro or con, on such a highly technical subject as your claims—and certainly will not do so. You do have my real sympathy, however, since I do know that such things can happen and often do. Read about "the Major"—Major Armstrong, the inventor of radio and FM in particular, and his experiences with large corporations. He ended up committing suicide, in sheer despair. I trust you will not go that far.

I will send your portfolio to the Editor of AUDIO and it is entirely up to him as to whether he assigns this to one of our writers, or decides that it is not a subject we could usefully investigate—again, whether pro or con.

Sincerely,


E. T. Canby

HIGH FIDELITY

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LEONARD MARCUS, *Editor in Chief*

February 11, 1980

Mr. Johan van Leer
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica, Calif. 90405

Dear Mr. van Leer:

Your material seems quite interesting. I am not a lawyer, nor do I read Dutch, but a cursory glance at the material would indicate to me that you had enough evidence to at least begin legal proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leonard Marcus", written in a cursive style.

LM/jw

AVERY FISHER
1185 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 10028

October 21, 1980

Mr. Johan van Leer
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica
California 90405

Dear Mr. van Leer:

Thank you for your kind letter of October 13, 1980.

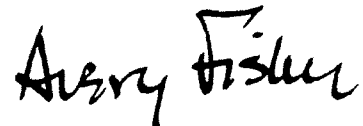
I do of course understand your frustration and disappointment with regard to the situation on the invention of the moving magnet phonograph cartridge.

However, I have now been retired for many years and it is not quite clear to me how I can be of assistance to you at this late date, some twenty five years since our original correspondence.

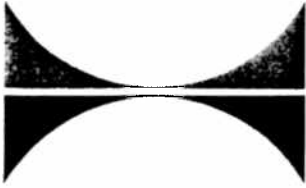
I hope you will be able to achieve your aims with the support of those who are in a position to give you that support.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Avery Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent, stylized capital 'F'.

Avery Fisher



PERCEPTION INC.
consultants in acoustics

31 March 1981

Johan van Leer
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Mr. van Leer :

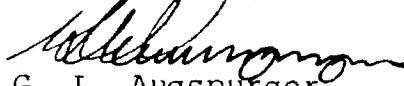
The information you sent is extremely interesting and I am most grateful for the material. I have long given up trying to understand the U.S. patent system or the behind-the-scenes activities involving patent rights and out-of-court agreements.

Your documentation certainly seems to establish that the torsional generator, moving magnet phono pickup was a known device prior to the filing of the Shure patent. Also, in light of the sequence of events outlined in your statement, it seems odd to say the least that your name is omitted from the patent. I can certainly sympathize with your feelings in the matter.

At this time there is little point in trying to stir up industry-wide indignation. I think you have chosen the wisest course in making your information available to a number of people and trusting that, in time, your contribution to the art of phonograph reproduction will be acknowledged.

Sincerely,

PERCEPTION INC.


G. L. Augspurger

NORMAN PICKERING

23 Culver Hill

Southampton, N. Y. 11968

516-283-8573

25 April 1983

Mr. Johan van Leer
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica, CA
90405

Dear Mr. Van Leer,

I have read your letter and enclosures with sympathy, because my own dealings with those same people were very unpleasant. In my case, I was forced out of the company I had founded and lost all rights to the technology I had pioneered.

So much time has elapsed that we both are far beyond legal recourse. In my case, I have tried to forget the whole unhappy experience, and I advise you to do the same. There is small comfort in being right when someone else has the profits.

I hope things go well with you, and thank you for writing to me.

Sincerely,


Norman C. Pickering

NCP:bg

GRAMOPHONE

GENERAL GRAMOPHONE PUBLICATIONS LIMITED
177-179 Kenton Road Harrow Middlesex HA3 0HA
Telephone 01-907 4476

31st October 1984

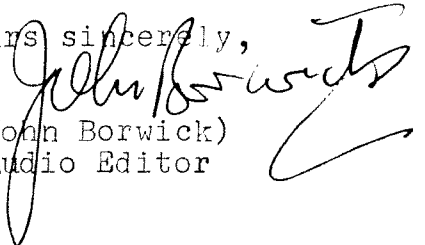
Dear Mr. van Leer,

Thank you for your letter dated 15th August. I am very sorry for the long delay in replying but I have been away from home a great deal lately.

Your papers certainly suggest that you have a legitimate grievance in regard to the patent situation on your phonograph cartridge invention. I am surprised that you were not able to persuade Philips to join in contesting the Shure actions more effectively.

At this stage, I cannot see how the publication of a discussion in "Gramophone" could itself be free from problems. However, I will keep your papers on file in case an opportunity arises for us to assist in putting the record straight.

Yours sincerely,


(John Borwick)
Audio Editor

Mr. Johan van Leer,
230 Bay Street,
Santa Monica,
California 90405,
U.S.A.

JNB/JSB

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28 October 1987

J van Leer Esq
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica
California 90405
USA

Dear Mr van Leer,

Thank you for your letter dated October 15th. I have now investigated the matter with New Hi-Fi Sound's editor, Neville Farmer.

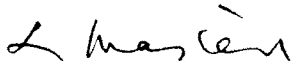
He has asked me to convey his sincere apologies for not replying to your letter, or acknowledging receipt of your 'white paper' regarding the origins of the moving magnet cartridge. Initially, Mr Farmer didn't reply because he was considering using your material as the basis for a possible feature, and in the circumstances felt that more direct contact by telephone during research for the article would be most appropriate.

However, plans for the article were eventually shelved, and at that point - some months after your initial letter - he overlooked the simple courtesy of a reply.

I should emphasise that it is Mr Farmer's policy - as indeed it is of all our editors - to reply to all individually addressed letters, although I should also point out that, especially with New Hi-Fi Sound and our other hi-fi titles, Hi-Fi Answers and What Hi-Fi?, the daily mailbag is very large indeed, and letters can sometimes slip through the net.

I am glad to learn that you enjoyed reading New Hi-Fi Sound, but sorry that you have let your subscription lapse. I hope that we will, at some stage, be able to welcome you back to our select band of Californian readers.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsay Masters
Chairman

Unit 6, 5 Vuko Place,
Warriewood, NSW, 2102 Australia
Telephone: (02) 913 1444



Correspondence:
P.O. Box 341, Mona Vale NSW, 2103
Facsimile: (02) 913 2342

23 May 1990

Mr Johan Van Leer
230 Bay Street
Santa Monica
California 90405
United States Of America.

Dear Mr Van Leer,

Thankyou for your lettergram dated May 9.

I must confess that I have not published anything concerning your invention of the moving magnet cartridge.

I must also regretfully advise that at present, I have not made up my mind about whether I will publish an account, nor can I advise when, or even if, I will make up my mind.

On the positive side, you can be assured that my sympathies are with you and, if nothing else, I have decided, should an account of the moving magnet cartridge's invention cross my desk in the future, I will take the opportunity to present your conflicting account. I am aware that this is cold comfort but at present, until I make up my mind, it's the best I can do.

Kind Regards,

Greg Borrowman
Editor
AUSTRALIAN HI-FI MAGAZINE

(Ref # 230590L3.WP5)