affect the sound level, but the loudness control has compensation such that the bass and (to a lesser degree) the treble is boosted relative to the middle range as the control is turned down, in accordance with Fletcher-Munson hearing curves. The other control is uncompensated. The idea is this: you turn the loudness control all the way up. Then you adjust the level-set control so that the sound from whatever source is selected at the time is at a level approximating that of the original. Then, thereafter, you use the loudness control for sound level adjustments, and the tonal balance is supposed to remain audibly the same at any level. With both controls on the front panel, effective loudness compensation can be obtained regardless of changing input levels. If you don't want loudness compensation, of course, you can leave the inner control turned up all the way and use the level-set control for all volume adjustments. It may be difficult to visualize, but you soon get the knack of its operation.

There is an output jack for connection to a tape recorder. It is of low impedance, which is desirable, and the signal at that point is affected by the filters and tone controls but not the loudness control. We are inclined to believe that if you can't have two tape outputs — one before and one after the tone and filter controls — it is generally better to have it after them, to facilitate dubbing records to tape.

A twenty-watt power amplifier is, so far as we know, unique to the Solitaire among compact all-in-one units of this price range. Moreover, it is an excellent amplifier according to our tests. Measuring and listening qualities are both high. The case gets quite hot directly over the output tubes; don't put anything on top that would cover the vent holes (apparently, when the photo reproduced here was retouched these holes were ignored).

Packaging of the unit was very good, and the instruction book was complete and written intelligibly. Before

Craftsmen decided to sell directly to consumers the price tag for this combination was about $120; we'd consider it an outstanding bargain at that price. At better than $30 less it is, of course, even more attractive. — R. A.

Flahan Tape Threader

We omit manufacturer's specifications because the picture tells the whole story . . . here's a gadget that works! We receive all too many which are pretty close to worthless.

Simply drop the threader over the center post or spindle of the recorder, pull the overhanging lip tight against the hub of the spool (to grip the tape), and turn the spool a couple of times. Then remove the threader and you're in business. Takes a little practice, but here's a case where familiarity definitely does not breed contempt. All for 98c, too!

Address is the Flahan Co., 7517 Pelham Drive, Cleveland 29, Ohio. — C. F.

Rek-O-Kut Rondines

SPECIFICATIONS (furnished by manufacturer): a line of 12-in.-rim-driven turntables in three price ranges. All have heavy, dynamically-balanced aluminum tables with cork-neoprene mats, strobe disc sections, and retractable built-in 45-rpm hubs. All have single-knob speed controls with automatic drive disengagement in "off" positions. MODEL L-34 — Speeds: 33 1/3, 45, and 78 rpm, controlled by rotary switch with "off" positions between speeds; pilot light goes on when in any speed position and off when between speeds. Motor 4-pole induction. Noise: better than 40 db below average recording level. Dimensions: 12 by 15 in. Height above deck, 1 3/8 in.; below deck, 5 in. MODEL B-12 — Speeds: 33 1/3, 45, and 78 rpm, controlled by rotary switch with "off" positions between speeds; pilot light goes on when in any speed position and off when between speeds. Motor 4-pole induction. Noise: better than 50 db below average recording level, and depth required below deck is 6 1/2 in. Price: model L-34 (Rondine Jr.), $19.95; model B-12 (Rondine), $74.95; model B-12H (Rondine Deluxe), $119.95. Manufacturer: Rek-O-Kut Company, 36-01 Queens Blvd., Long Island City 1, New York.

Rek-O-Kut's Rondine and Rondine Deluxe turntables are completely new designs; from our experience with them, we'd say they are definitely improved over their predecessors, not only in performance but in operating convenience also. To begin with, they are easier to install. The cutout required is rectangular, about 13 by 15 inches. There are ribs under the cast-iron deck that fit into such a hole; you simply set the deck over the cutout and screw it down. No need to cut out an irregular hole with a jigsaw. The deck itself is big enough to hold standard 12-inch play-