



Origin Live Enterprise Mk4

WINNER
TONARM



Star Trek references notwithstanding, the Origin Live Enterprise Mk4 is a hybrid design, using six different materials in the armtube itself, a dual pivot bearing (that mimics the stability of a gimbal bearing with the freedom of a unipivot), which is both extremely low friction and fully decoupled from the yoke assembly. It has both VTA and azimuth adjustment, and features silver wiring throughout. It is available with a 9.5" arm tube as standard, but we tested it in what was then known as Enterprise-C; the 12" tonearm and nothing to do with fighting Klingons. The arm was supplied with the Origin Live Sovereign, itself the subject of an Award in this issue.

A sign of Origin Live's quality in tonearm design is that a 9.5" arm can be easily ported down to 9" and up to 10" and 12" without changing its performance or character, thanks to increases in effective mass or even geometry issues. The Enterprise design takes these arm-tube lengths in its stride.

In our test, Alan Sircom felt the Enterprise to be an excellent all-round performer and a perfect match for turntable and a range of cartridges. "The big highlight has to be the sense of scale it brings to the bass. Bass notes are textured, deep, powerful, and dynamic," he said.

Used with a Lyra Dorian, Alan felt that Origin Live makes a combination, "Lyra should use to quiet the 'it's sounds a bit lean' arguments set against the firm's cartridges. The Origin Live combination shows it isn't lean, just other decks and arms aren't this resolving in the bass to show what Lyra can do."

He also felt that, when playing a well-recorded track, "the sound takes on a kind of enveloping energy that makes it impossible to turn off until the very end." and signed off saying, "A reviewer is only as good as their last criticism, but I'm struggling to find anything other than praise to heap on the Origin Live duo here."

Reviewed in issue 140

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