



TONEARMS

**REVOLUTIONARY
FLOATING BEARING**

**DECOUPLED HEADSHELL &
ARMTUBE**

**ROCK SOLID,
VIBRATION FREE**

**FULLY DYNAMIC
20 - 20,000 Hz**

**SUPER PREMIUM CABLES
INCLUDED**



**ORIGIN
LIVE**

Opening remarks

Major progress by Origin Live has advanced the art of tonearm design enormously over recent years.

Early reviews of our upgrades to Rega arms were fairly ecstatic. Next came the launch of the Silver arm which was hailed as “probably the best arm in the world” but at a fraction of the cost of high end models. Not content with this, Origin Live went on to launch the Encounter, followed by the Resolution and then the Conqueror. These subsequent arms represented very significant levels of improvement over previous arms which were already world class leaders. The level of improvement over older and established references is dramatic and makes upgrading a highly worthwhile investment. Unlike cartridges, a tonearm upgrade will produce a far more profound improvement and last a lot longer. It is also transferable to other decks should you ever decide to change in the future.

Origin Live arms bring stunning improvements. In fact even the lower arms in our range will still outperform arms at many times their price.

Tonearm philosophy

Much of the design philosophy and reasons behind the superiority of Origin Live tonearms is discussed in our brochure “System Philosophy & upgrading”. To save repetition, please refer to this first as it is an important introduction.

Example of radical design

De-coupling the armtube

To give an example of the way that Origin Live “break the mould” with design, you only have to observe the “floated bearing” philosophy that is employed in the tonearms. Origin Live bearings are highly specified to suit tonearms - however the bearing houses are deliberately not machined to a tight tolerance as this degrades the sound to an intolerable degree. We have found that tightly held bearings are not beneficial but this is easily confused with “bearing play”. There are very strong technical arguments to suggest that tightly coupling the arm to the deck via tight bearings is detrimental in the light of listening tests. These confirm that once you house the bearings outside the arm tube, it is best to “float” them rather than “grip”

them in a tight fitting housing. People hypothesise about bearing chatter etc - maybe this is the case with high resonance arm-tubes and lower quality bearings. However listening soon shows up that there is absolutely no bearing chatter in any of our arms - in fact resonance in our arms is so minimal that it’s extremely difficult to measure.

Minimising “ripple” effects

Another factor which indicates “floating” the arm tube to be a good idea is that unipivots and knife edge



bearings work on this principle. Vibration transmits through the surface which supports the tonearm in various ways. Most significant is “rippling” - not just a simple 1 or 2 dimensional movement as some imagine. Ripple exerts twist or angular force into the structure.

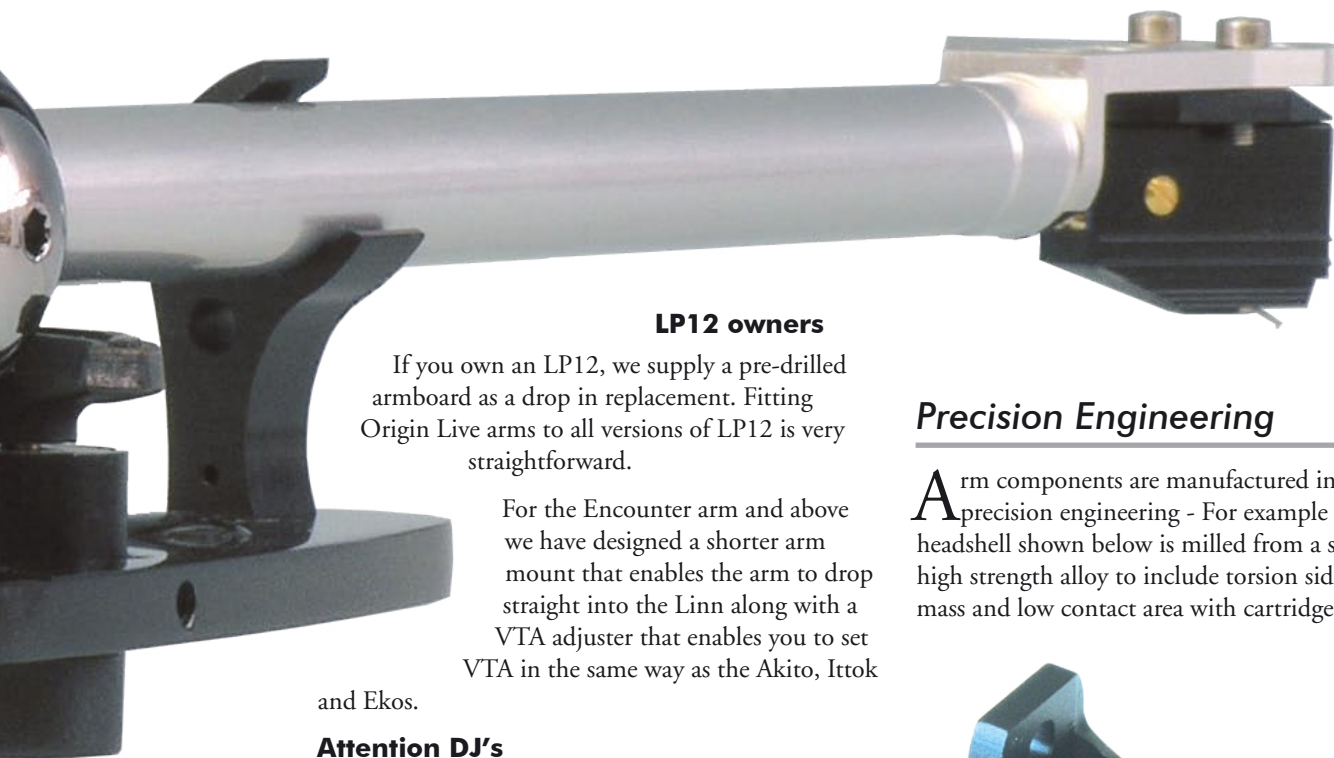
The mechanism of ripple is seen dramatically with very fast frame photography taken inside ships undergoing underwater explosive shock. When a mine explodes under a ship, the inside becomes a death trap of flying fittings that have become detached due to the underwater shock wave. Anything attached to a side wall or part of the ship structure detaches at speeds of up to 600Km/hour. The reason this happens is due to the shock waves setting up ripple in the ship structure

and side walls.

In the micro vibration that occurs in analogue replay, ripple effects are very important. Unipivots are rigidly grounded in one sense but decoupled completely from ripple effects - However and it is a big "however" - they cannot hold the cartridge well against torsion exerted by bass notes. Widely spaced conventional bearings reduce ripple effects as do floated bearings. However they have the added benefit of holding the cartridge rigidly which results in a more dynamic bass performance.

Fitting OL arms

All Origin Live arms have identical base geometry to Rega arms. This makes them very easy to mount, especially when replacing Rega arms. Most turntable manufacturers will supply a Rega arm mount if you do not already have one.



LP12 owners

If you own an LP12, we supply a pre-drilled armboard as a drop in replacement. Fitting Origin Live arms to all versions of LP12 is very straightforward.

For the Encounter arm and above we have designed a shorter arm mount that enables the arm to drop straight into the Linn along with a VTA adjuster that enables you to set VTA in the same way as the Akito, Ittok

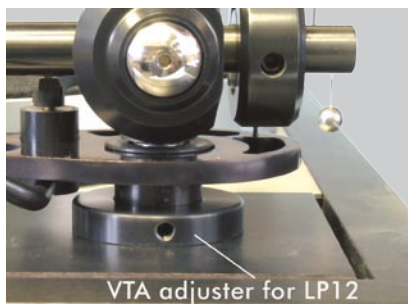
and Ekos.

Attention DJ's

Please see pages on OL1 tonearm for notes on fitting arms to Technics DJ decks

Low Friction bearings

The Silver tonearm and upwards use special low friction bearings that improve in specification right up to the ceramic bearings used in the Conqueror. Long and intensive research has been invested in bearing design as it plays a very significant role in sound quality. The influence of bearing friction is surprising and can only be put down to the fact that it not only allows improved tonearm tracking but more



importantly minimizes environmental vibration from affecting the arm. This effect can be likened to putting the tonearm on ice. The ice can ripple but due to low friction and inertia the tonearm is affected much less in terms of vibration and motion.

Excellent conductivity

The quality of cable required to transmit the extremely low level of signals generated by cartridges needs to be of the highest calibre. Origin Live has invested exhaustive research into this critical area over many years and have developed the best sounding cable possible.

Precision Engineering

Arm components are manufactured in the UK using precision engineering - For example the Illustrious headshell shown below is milled from a solid block of high strength alloy to include torsion side webs, low mass and low contact area with cartridge.



Tonearm features

to provide you with extraordinary performance

Features of each arm are shown in the chart opposite.

Advanced arm base

Revolutionary bearing house provides isolation from vibration

Construction materials selected to optimize performance

Infinitely variable VTA adjuster available

Rega geometry of base fitting enables easy substitution for standard Rega arms

Slotted arm tube

Machined slots cut along the underside of arm tube minimizes "ringing"

High strength tube

Large diameter, high strength arm-tube provides massive torsional strength. Results are superbly controlled deep bass together with increased focus, stability and resolution throughout the frequency range. Higher specified arm tubes include taper profiled machined from solid billets of aerospace alloy.

Minimum resonant parts

Elimination of springs and magnets for tracking force & side bias means increased signal purity

Rigid stub & counterweight

Rear Stub and counterweight modelled on the highly acclaimed Origin live Rega structural upgrade

Low loss wiring

Cartridge tags - Gold plated copper beryllium

Headshell wires - silver plated and Robust PTFE insulated

Internal wiring - high grade Litz design

External wiring - selected to optimize low level signal transmission

High grade phono plugs with up to 4 times the conductivity of brass phono connectors resulting in audible improvements

Separate earth lead from headshell for optimum earthing and screening

Low friction bearings

Highly specified bearings, positioned outside the arm tube and widely spaced

Advanced bearing house within the yoke reduces resonance within the tube and increases torsional stability - both of which result in very marked improvements over conventional arms

Advanced headshell

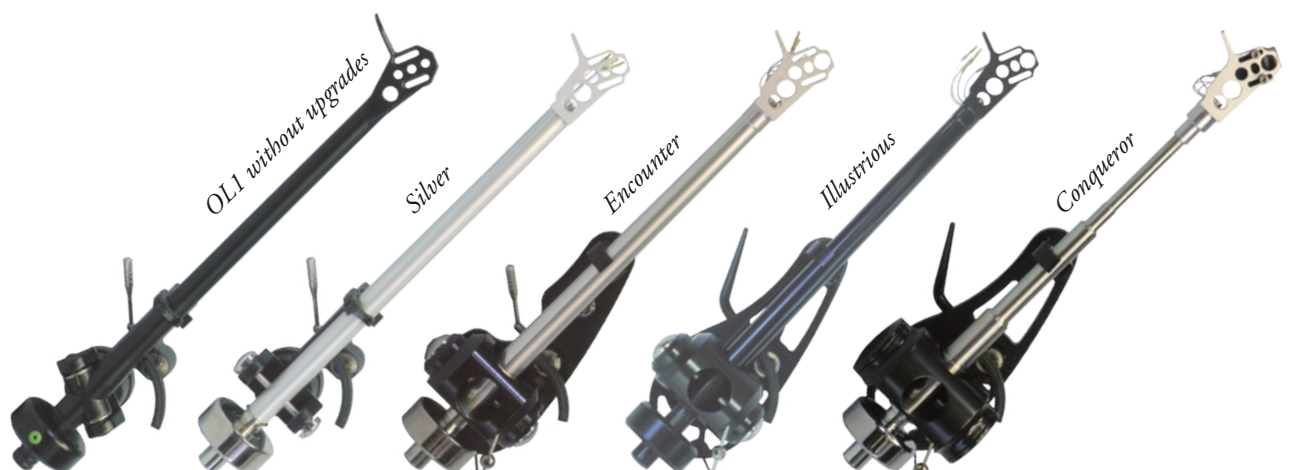
High strength, low mass sculpted headshell machined from solid alloy block to include flanges

Headshell decoupled and yet rigidly attached to the arm tube provides a large performance improvement over conventional single piece arm tubes

Comparison chart - Which arm is right for you?

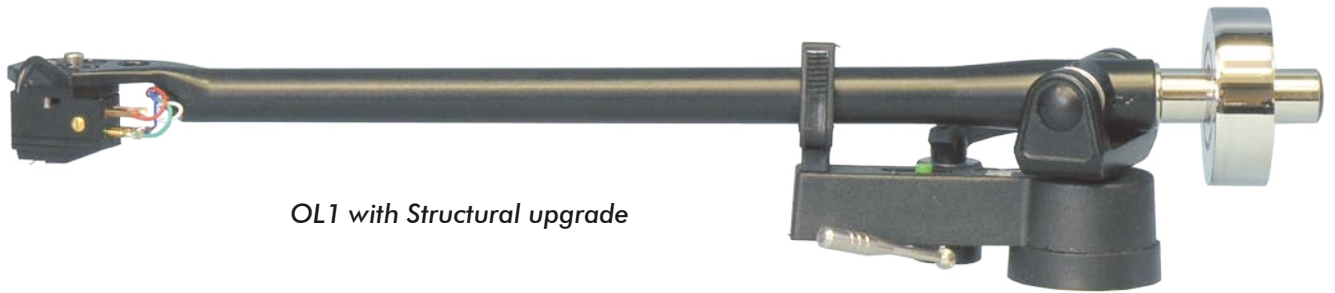
Each feature shown below results in higher levels of performance. Choice of arm depends on your final aspirations.

Feature	Improvement % rating	OL1 all mods	Silver	Encounter	Illustrious	Conqueror
Structural upgrade	70	●	●	●	●	●
High Grade Internal Wire	12	●	●	●	●	●
High Grade External Wire	12	●	●	●	●	●
High Conductivity Phono Plugs	1	●	●	●	●	●
Slotted Arm Tube	55	●	●	●	●	●
Bullet Plugs	4		●	●	●	●
New Horizontal Bearings	30		●	●	●	●
Bearings located in Yoke not arm	20		●	●	●	●
High Strength Arm Tube	65		●	●	●	●
Tapered Arm Tube machined from solid billet of aerospace alloy	75			●	●	●
Widely spaced bearings	5			●	●	●
Highly specified Bearings	10			●	●	●
Special Yoke Assembly	25			●	●	●
Advanced arm base	35			●	●	●
Headshell with torsion webs	20				●	●
Light weight milled plate for arm clip	3				●	●
Very highly specified bearings	15				●	●
High inertia yoke	15				●	●
Advanced bearing decoupling	15				●	●
Aesthetic lift / lower handle	0				●	●
Ultra low resonance arm tube	120					●
Highly advanced bearing decoupling	20					●
Ceramic Bearings	45					●
Silver bullet plugs	8					●
Highest grade materials throughout	15					●



OL1 Tonearm & upgrades

plus upgrades for Rega arms



OL1 with Structural upgrade

The OL1 arm and Rega RB250 are budget arms that can be transformed with our renowned upgrades.

Upgrades for :

- OL1 arm - offered by Origin Live and manufactured by Rega
- All Rega arms

The OL1 arm and Rega arms can be utterly transformed by Origin Live upgrades - it's worth it! Over 5 reviewers in the past have used an Origin Live upgraded OL1 tonearm as their reference tonearm in preference to pick up arms costing over 6 times as much. All Rega arms can be transformed to outperform arms at many times their price, using the stunning range of Origin Live upgrades (no hype!). These unique upgrades transform rega manufactured arms in such a way that every aspect of performance benefits. The results have astonished users who report the difference as a night and day experience.

A £100 cartridge in these arms will comfortably outperform a £600 cartridge mounted in lesser arms

“With its superior bearing arrangement and no tracking force spring to add resonance’s, it’s a true giant killer. It has all the dynamic power and seismic bass of a £2000 super arm but costs a fraction to buy. With Origin Live’s rewiring, it’s one of the best arms money can buy and no less a bargain.”

UPGRADES ON REGA RB250 - HI-FI WORLD

“I have to say the Rega upgrades turn this humble arm into a real Giant killer. Gone is the rather grey, sterile sound of the cooking Rega. Instead, tonal colour is fresh, dynamics have great speed and impact, and the sound stage is huge.”

UPGRADE TO REGA RB300 & RB250 - HI-FI WORLD

“In short, the performance boost was striking. The most obvious improvement concerns scale. With the modified arm, the stereo image is much wider and deeper enabling each musician to be placed with accuracy within the sound stage. Focus is better too and improved bass depth increases solidity and weight. In fact, there isn’t an area in which the standard arm betters the modified. Dynamic swings are faster and tonal colours far more vivid, making the standard RB250 seem almost grey by comparison.”

WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION

★★★★★ FOR STRUCTURAL UPGRADE

“The overall musical and sonic performance of the Origin Live RB250 is simply astounding. Considering its sub-\$500 price, the only appropriate reaction is to yell, ‘Eureka!’ The Origin Live upgrade of the RB250 appears to be the new giant-killer.”

UPGRADES TO RB250 - STEREO TIMES

“If you have any...Rega RB250 or 300, dismount the arm and send it off for the mods NOW. You have no idea what you are missing.”

UPGRADES ON RB250 - TNT MAGAZINE

Summary of Upgrades

Origin Live upgrades can be added in any sequence and combination to suit your budget.

To see the performance improvement of each upgrade, refer to in the arm comparison chart.

Structural upgrade

Rewiring is known to do wonders for the RB250 & RB300, however the structural upgrade to the Rega / OL1 arm



is far more significant. The upgrade entails reconstructing the rear end of the Rega arm on which the counter weight is attached. This is an extremely critical area, as the counterweight represents by far the highest moving mass in the arm and affects tonearm performance more than can be imagined. The work involves removing the existing rear end stub (which is normally just screwed into the end of the Rega arm - a sonic disaster), and replacing it with a new stub, torqued onto the arm by a thin high tensile bolt. The new stub is designed to present a low contact area with the arm tube. It is therefore semi-decoupled, yet far more rigid than the original.

On an unmodified arm, the counterweight must not be rigidly coupled in this way due to the poor vibration characteristics of the standard arm / rear stub joint. This ingenious Origin Live upgrade elevates a good tonearm into the same league as much more expensive arms and at an insignificant outlay.

The structural upgrade applies to the RB250, RB300, RB600, RB900 and the RB1000 although the RB250 is the best arm in the range to have upgraded - in fact an upgraded RB250 will comfortably outperform an upgraded Rega RB300,

RB600, or RB900 tonearm - see FAQ on the Origin Live web site for reasons why.

The cost of the structural upgrade has been kept well below its actual performance value so that it is within reach of those with budget turntables. For the upgraded OL1 or RB250 you will need a stylus balance or force gauge to set the tracking force. If you do not have a stylus balance we can supply one.

Slotted arm tube

The "slotted arm tube" upgrade is identifiable by a highly polished silver arm tube - The upgrade involves removing the powder coat from the arm tube which enables faster energy transmission and prevents the arm being over damped. A slot is then machined in the underside of the arm to reduce ringing effects. Lastly the arm tube is highly polished giving it a very high grade appearance. Please note that Origin Live internal rewiring must be already included in your arm or ordered for this upgrade to be possible. The effect of this upgrade is to improve the musical transparency and incisiveness of the arm. Particularly noticeable is that notes have very natural decay due to the reduced "ringing" effects in the arm tube.

Rewiring

Rewiring yields overall improvements to most aspects of performance, particularly bass weight and transparency.

Internal Rewire

High grade Litz wire is used inside the arm tube. The Litz is to Origin Live's specification and design. An internal dedicated earth lead is attached at the head shell and runs through to your amplifier).

The old **cartridge tags** are replaced with gold plated, copper beryllium versions.

The **headshell wires** are upgraded with robust, silver plated, PTFE insulated wire.

External Rewire

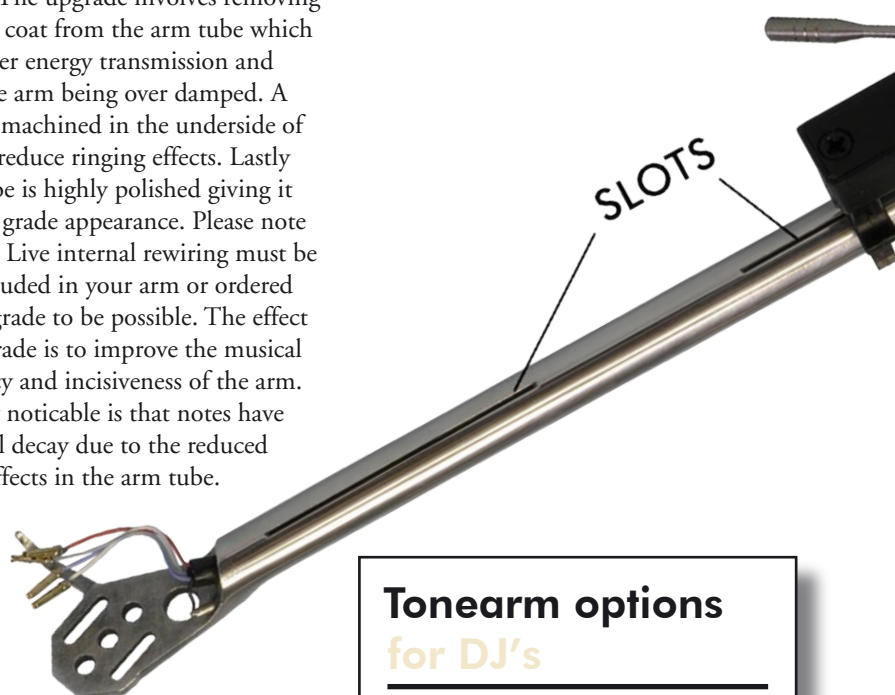
A special low resistance cable, optimized for low level signals, replaces the existing cable - Origin Live have carried out tests

on literally hundreds of different cable designs. Not many line level interconnect designs work well for the very low signal output of cartridges and so optimum design is crucial.

Tests have shown that it is more important to optimize the external cable than to use a very thin non-jointed wire all the way from the headshell to the amplifier.

High Grade aluminium phono plugs

Standard brass phono plugs are replaced with high conductivity aluminium ones - Over twice as conductive as brass.



Tonearm options for DJ's

All Origin Live and Rega arms are superb for DJ use.

The Technics SL1200 and derivatives are surprisingly good decks, but let down seriously on account of their existing tonearm.

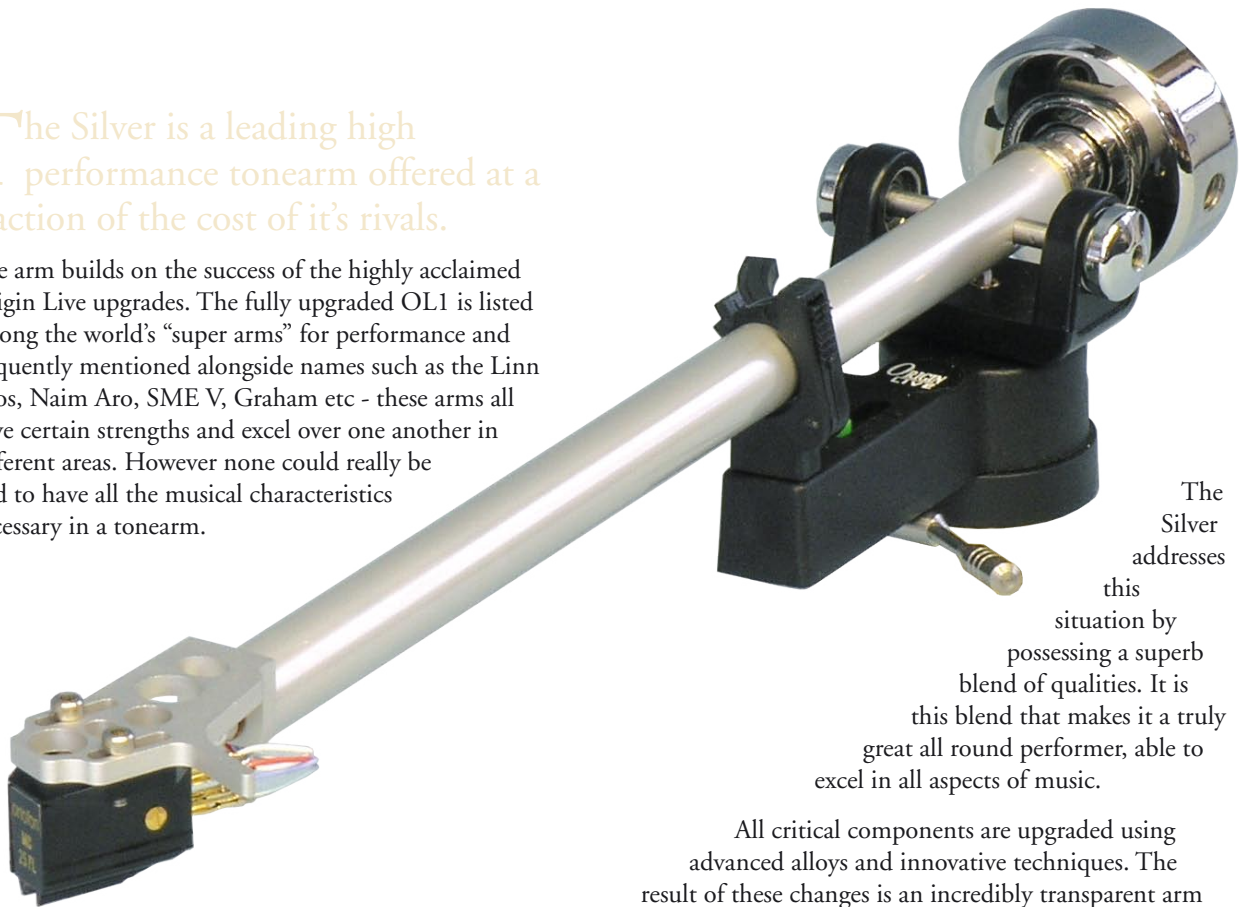
To overcome this lamentable situation, Origin Live offer a **DJ armboard** specially developed for the Technics SL1200 which enables you to fit any of the above arms with unbelievable results.

There is also an option for a **2m external rewire** instead of the standard 1.2m at no extra cost than the 1.2m rewire option.

Silver

The Silver is a leading high performance tonearm offered at a fraction of the cost of it's rivals.

The arm builds on the success of the highly acclaimed Origin Live upgrades. The fully upgraded OL1 is listed among the world's "super arms" for performance and frequently mentioned alongside names such as the Linn Ekos, Naim Aro, SME V, Graham etc - these arms all have certain strengths and excel over one another in different areas. However none could really be said to have all the musical characteristics necessary in a tonearm.



The Silver addresses this situation by possessing a superb blend of qualities. It is this blend that makes it a truly great all round performer, able to excel in all aspects of music.

All critical components are upgraded using advanced alloys and innovative techniques. The result of these changes is an incredibly transparent arm with superb tonal balance. The sound produced is free from coloration allowing previously unheard low level information to be noticed clearly. The arm exhibits a clean dynamic sound coupled with a tight and powerful bass

Go ahead, compare this arm with the very best available.

"The Silver is...the very best tonearm I've ever heard... awsomey tight bottom end...the midband - glass clear, incredibly liquid, fantastic image precision, walkaround soundstaging and incredible timbral realism...the treble is shockingly open and airy up top...the £599 price tag is laughably low...could probably charge 5 times this amount...words can't express how good this is - one of the designs of the decade."

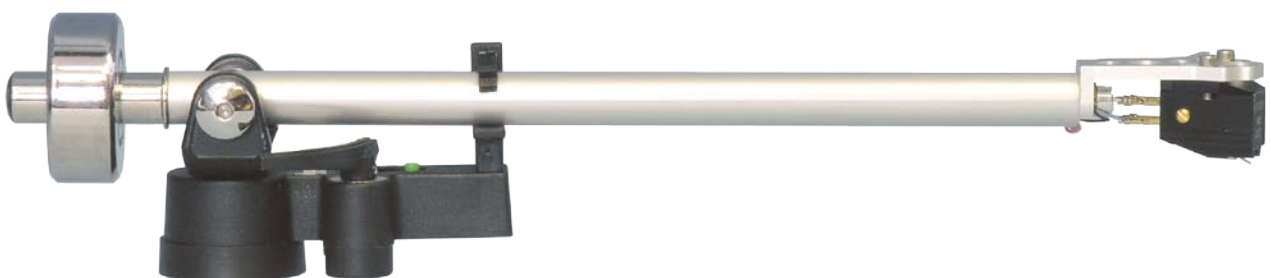
HIFI WORLD

"A terrific arm, a terrific bargain, and obviously , the highest of recommendations"

STEREO TIMES

"There may be better value propositions around to upgrade your system but if there is I haven't heard them ...A fantastic product then from Origin Live and this particular audiophiles dream review tool".

TNT AUDIO



Encounter

The Encounter arm builds on the outstanding performance of the Silver by improving the design and quality of all components. This is not just a development - it is a complete redesign.

For example the armtube of the Encounter has a special large diameter taper profile, to achieve high strength and low resonance. To further increase strength the tube is machined from a solid billet of aerospace alloy - not a low strength casting. The Silver arm by way of contrast is manufactured from tube. The tapered arm-tube provides massive torsional strength, which manifests itself in outstanding deep bass along with increased



focus, stability and resolution through all frequencies. The tight and powerful bass carries the hallmark of authority and adds so much to the musical experience.

In addition the arm dramatically improves the great transparency, tonal balance and sound-staging of the Silver arm. It produces a wonderful "live" feel to the music, with fabulous transient speed and "air".

The Encounter arm is outstanding - yes it is that good.

For full list of features see "comparison chart"

klangBilder Fair Vienna 2003



Best Sound, Publik Choice:
 Room 130:
 Speaker: Wiener Lautsprecher Manufaktur
 Amplifier: Antique Sound Lab, Manley
 Analog: Origin Live
 Digital: YBA

Voted best sound at the show award

"A new benchmark for musical communication, natural detail and timbral truth. All at a price that, considering the quality of its performance, can only be called a bargain."

STEREO TIMES MAGAZINE

Preference Audio used this arm at a large show in Vienna and were awarded "the best sound at the show award". The decision was made using voting forms handed out by the show organisers to all members of

the public attending the show. Against very stiff competition from other high end turntables, not to mention all the other new format players.

WIENNA SHOW

"I have owned about 60 different tonearms so far, including Immedia, Wheaton, SME V, Forsell, Mission Mechanic, Linn Ekos, Naim Aro, the above mentioned Audio Note and many others. And what counts more: it [the Encounter] is the best conventional (gimballed) one in that class, and the best UK tonearm, too.....At it's price point I consider the Origin Live a best buy" (square bracketed text added by Origin Live for clarity).

TNT AUDIO

"One of the truly special products I've reviewed in the past 18 years....Overall the Encounter's look, feel and fit'n finish are exceptionally high for it's modest price of \$1495".

STEREOPHILE

"There's a lovely airy quality about the treble. It's very clean too....The bottom end is tight and clean. Low frequencies ...when they're present, boy are they present... A gorgeous tonearm".

HI FI +



Illustrious

Feature highlights

Arm tube:

Aerospace alloy accounts for tight, powerful and completely natural bass.

Yoke and arm base:

These house a revolutionary design to decouple the bearings and thus isolate the armtube.

The yoke offers high inertia in the horizontal plane for cartridge stability but minimizes inertia in the vertical plane to enable excellent tracking.

Highly specified bearings improve on the already amazing level of tonal accuracy and sound-staging of the Encounter arm.

Headshell:

Holographic images of headshells taken during record playing reveal that most headshells flex and twist significantly. To prevent this microscopic twisting the Illustrious headshell is machined from a solid block of high strength alloy incorporating side flanges.

“The apparent width of the perceived image was enormous, as the image was so large that my living room walls seemed to melt away. This was complemented with a precision of spatial characteristics that made listening to the Illustrious an absolute pleasure... moreover the extra dynamic range over all the other arms here was simply stunning....Along with firecracker dynamics, something SME users will know, it possessed a seamless rhythmic ease and flow which SME V users will not! This is a beautifully fluid listen, yet gives nothing away in terms of grip and focus...bringing almost all the fluidity of the best unipivot with vastly improved grip and incision - the best of both worlds, if you like.

“And the winner is... the Origin Live Illustrious, a pick up arm that is quite simply breathtaking. It's ability to display a three dimensional stereo image is above criticism, as is it's transparency and lack of artifice. It also has amazing tonal accuracy, which lets the “flavour” of each instrument or voice flood out of the speakers. This is the respect in which it is most obviously superior to the SME.... on any deck ... this is surely the best.

“The best tonearm I've heard to datebrilliantly detailed yet utterly musical, this arm is set to join the ranks of the all time greats. Wholeheartedly recommended!”

DAVID PRICE - HI-FI WORLD 2003

Winner of Stereo Times “most wanted component of the year Award 2004” in combination with the Resolution Turntable

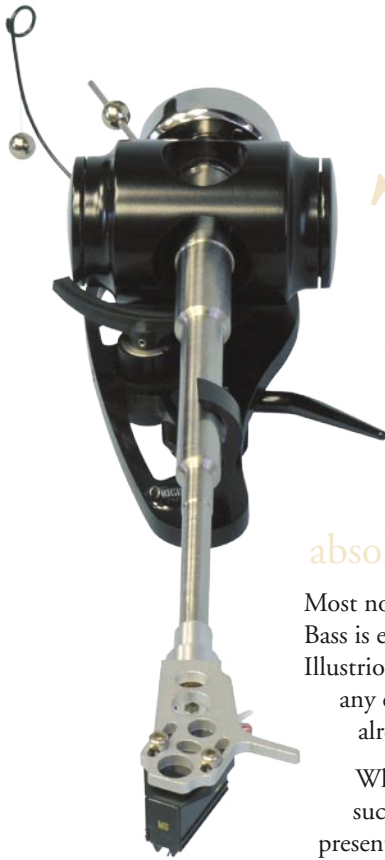
WINNER OF HI-FI WORLD 2004 GROUP COMPARISON TEST OF 7 TONEARMS



Ground-breaking design is behind the astonishing performance of the Illustrious arm. This award winning arm has been highly acclaimed as a true performance leader.



Conqueror



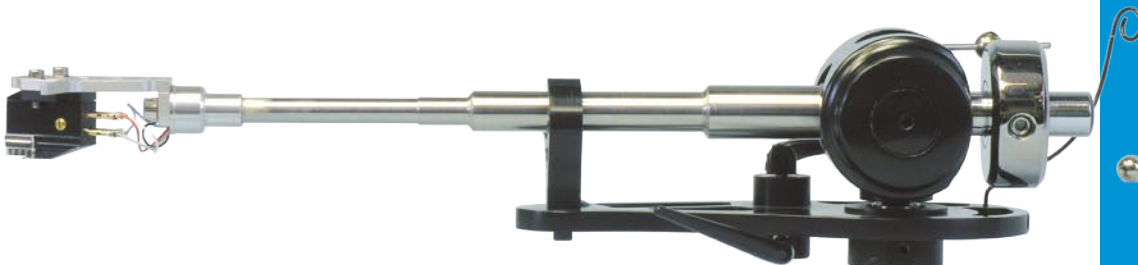
The Conqueror arm design is simply light years ahead of it's time. Incorporating truly idealistic principles translated into engineering practice, the arm delivers a level of performance that is absolutely extraordinary.

Most noticeable is the increase in presence, clarity and focus. Bass is even more defined and rock solid than the superlative Illustrious. Vocals take on total realism and freedom from any confusion. Imaging is also noticeably better than the already remarkable other arms in the range.

Why is the arm so good? Many of the highly successful techniques used in the Illustrious are present. More importantly, a number of new ideas are included and it is these that make the big difference. It's performance demonstrates the level of inspiration and engineering involved.

Feature highlights

- Armtube subjected to specialised treatment for complete freedom from brashness and harshness
- Highest grade materials are used throughout
- Yoke incorporates a newly developed de-coupling design to increase transparency
- Superlative ceramic bearings to Origin Live design



Specifications and additional notes

Specifications applicable to all Origin Live arms:

Effective length	240 mm
Overhang	17.24 mm
Offset angle	23 degrees
Mounting distance: platter centre to arm hole centre	223 mm
Diameter of mounting hole	24 - 25mm
Size of base mounting nut	32mm A/F (across flats)
Maximum armboard thickness	27mm
Length of external cable	1.2m except for DJ option of 2m
Capacitance in uF	0.002uF
Resistance in Ohms	0.002 ohms

Variable specifications

<i>Specification</i>	<i>OL1</i>	<i>OL1 all upgrades</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Encounter</i>	<i>Illustrious</i>	<i>Conqueror</i>
Effective mass in grams	11g	11g	14g	14.5g	14.5g	14.5g
Total Weight in grams	448g	448g	448g	758g	820g	820g
Stylus Force gauge included				●	●	●
Threaded VTA adjuster included			●	●	●	●

Origin Live have a policy of continuous development and reserve the right to change product specifications and appearance without notice.

Vinyl replay products by Origin Live include:

Tonearms
 Power supply upgrades
 Turntables
 Phono Stages
 Interconnects