

SOUNDBITES



Origin Live have recently introduced a new range of upgrade belts to fit their own series of decks and a lot of other designs as well.

ORIGIN LIVE UPGRADE BELT £29.60

The drive belt on a turntable is one of those components that is generally forgotten about until it needs replacement due to stretching or degradation through age.

However, that innocuous looking piece of rubber has a far greater effect upon the sound of a turntable than most of us realise. After all, a drive belt is just a drive belt right?

Well, unfortunately, the answer is no they are not.

After a great deal of research they are understandably tight-lipped about the choice of material for their new product – only saying that it is a special rubber not normally found in drive belts.

When I took it out of the box I was aware of a different texture to that of my standard Linn belt but could not identify any other difference.

I fitted it to my Sondek and started listening. My first impression was that the sound was smoother but it seemed lacking a

little in dynamic range so I left it running for an hour and came back.

This time I found that the sound had noticeably changed with a more expansive bass, more spacious mid-band and smoother treble. Imaging seemed improved with a larger and more defined soundstage and surface noise seemed reduced. I assume that this is due to the lack of snatch from a belt that doesn't stretch and flex as much as a standard one meaning the platter rotates more smoothly.

The Upgrade Belt costs £29.60 and is one of the most cost effective changes that I have made to this deck. Changing back to the original belt left me with a sound that felt jagged and almost uncouth in comparison. I suggest you buy one and try it. I am both amazed and impressed at the improvement it makes to the sound of my Sondek. **TB**

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