

## How it works Setting up your turntable



### Tracking force

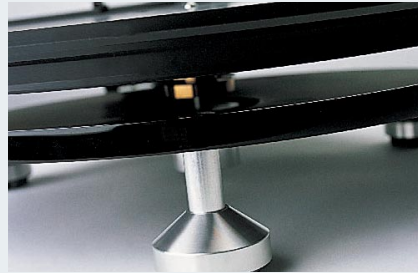
Attach the counterweight and, with the tonearm free and the stylus guard off, screw the weight in and out until the arm is parallel with the surface of the platter. Now hold the weight still and rotate the collar (if numbered) to show zero, then recheck the balance and adjust as needed.

### Installing the cartridge

The cartridge is mounted into the headshell using two (very small) screws – this is tricky – so use a set of jewellers' screwdrivers and a set of miniature tweezers to help attach the four thin and fragile colour-coded cables.

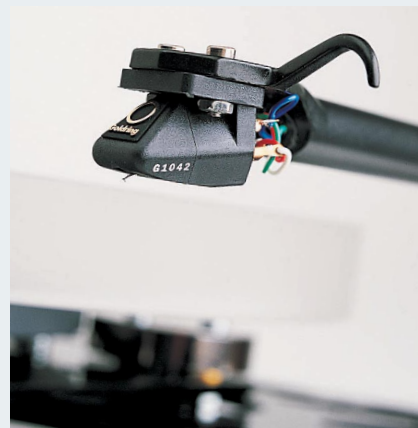
### Cartridge alignment

Use the protractor provided (if not, ask your dealer) to adjust the cartridge so it aligns with the grid at the two points on the guide, so ensuring correct tracking. Do this with the stylus guard removed and the locating bolts loose enough so you can adjust position. When you're done, tighten the bolts up gently but firmly.



### Levelling

Unscrew and screw the feet to ensure the turntable is level. But first use a spirit level to check the rack or shelf on which the deck is located. Then place the spirit level – if you don't have one, use a ball bearing – and check the left-to-right, front-to-back, and diagonal levelling.



## Winner Origin Live Aurora

£1196 ★★★★★

THE INDIVIDUAL RATINGS range from three to five stars, but all the decks serve as a reminder of how good vinyl sounds.

The Technics SL-1210MK5 loses out due to our sound-per-pound rule, but if you want a DJ deck to cane the rest, this is the machine. It's not the most musical, and you should upgrade the supplied cartridge, but, of the four decks, it's the king of clubs.

The choice between the Roksan and the Michell is not clear-cut. The Michell's total price means it's up against some very good rivals – we'd demo it at £699 and see how it compares with the new Roksan. And for the money the Roksan Radius 5 is a cracker – sublime looks and great sound to match.

But, if you can find room on your credit card, choose the Origin Live Aurora. It's a nightmare to set up but, boy-oh-boy, it's worth the effort. It looks like a star and sounds like heaven – a class leader in every respect.



## Partners for the winner

The ideal kit to put with the Origin

**Trichord Dino phono stage**  
£299 ★★★★★

Awards 2002

The Dino unearths detail yet puts it together in a musical way. Its even balance complements the Origin's neutral stance.



**AVI Laboratory integrated amp**  
£1399 ★★★★★

May 2003

The more we listen to this gem the more we like it. Masses of detail and firm, solid bass mean it's the ideal significant other for the winning deck.



**Spendor S8 speakers** £1699  
★★★★★ November 2001  
The soon-to-be-replaced S8s offer awesome clarity, dynamics and tonal balance. If these are too pricey, try ATC's £1000 SCM12 standmounters

### WHAT'S IT GOT?

Price (complete) £998  
Speed change Manual  
Speeds 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>; 45 RPM  
Drive system Belt drive  
Cartridge supplied No

Arm operation Manual  
Pitch control No  
Slip-mat No  
Lid No  
Quick start No  
Arm Rega RB250

### WHAT WE GAVE IT...

Sound ★★★★★  
Build ★★★★★  
Features ★★★★★

**VERDICT** ★★★★★

**Origin Live Aurora**  
**TEST WINNER**

£1196  
Control box switch  
Speeds 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>; 45 RPM  
Belt drive  
Optional Goldring 1042

Manual  
No  
No  
No  
No  
Structurally modified OL1

★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★

**Roksan Radius 5**

£750  
Manual  
Speeds 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>; 45 RPM  
Belt drive  
No

Manual  
No  
No  
No  
No  
Roksan NIMA unipivot

★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★

**Technics SL1210**

£550  
Deck switch  
Speeds 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>; 45 RPM  
Direct drive  
Ortofon DJ

Manual  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Technics

★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★  
★★★★★

We tested them with (price-comparable system) Amplifier AVI Laboratory Series; speakers ATC SCM12; phono stage Trichord Dino (reference system) Amplifier Krell KRC-3/TAS; speakers Wilson Benesch Discoverys, PMC IB2; cables and interconnects QED and Atlas; cartridge Goldring 1042