

Initial impressions of the Discovery 2 phono stage from Originlive

Un boxing and setting up

The first thing you notice is the quality of the packaging and the simple well engineered appearance of the Phono amp and it's accompanying PSU.

Assembling the beast is very simple and straightforward, you need to check the parameters of your particular cartridge and adjust the clearly marked knobs on the front panel, read the instructions and you can't go wrong, if you want to run fully balanced into your system you will need a special cable.

Reviewing the Discovery 2.

Comparisons I find are odious, all you hear in a comparison test are differences, all products are designed with different criteria in mind so will sound different. I prefer to assess a product on its ability to convey music into the room, with as little interference as possible, regardless of price and marketing, it's either good, bad or indifferent.

First job was to allow it to warm up, I gave it 4 hours, and then ran it with music for a further 2. Before attempting any serious listening, although in the instructions you are recommended to place the two boxes together, I found they produced a slight hum through the speakers, moving them apart as far as the DC. lead would allow gave me total silence. Put a record on adjust volume to normal listening level (very important) sit back and allow it to entertain you. Wow it does, in spades, top end is very slightly scratchy and bass is a tad hollow completely as expected, this amp needs serious running in, as do all high quality products, however over the next couple of hours the beast is taming itself and showing its pedigree.

Four hours in and the discovery is really getting its act together, the improvement over a couple of hours ago is quite remarkable, bass is back with proper slam and definition, soundstage has opened up and I'm sorting out more records to play, this is where I lost all pretensions to review and just wanted to play more music (can't imagine what that's about)

Back to the plot this thing will continue to improve, how much? At this point I really can't surmise, but will thoroughly enjoy finding out, I've heard enough to comfortably predict, that if like me, you require an open window to your music and have the patience to stick with it past the initial stages you will be rewarded.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to play with some of the greatest names in Hi-Fi equipment and have some in my own system, the Discovery 2 is up there with the very best and at a price that should embarrass all of them.

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