



# Origin Live Sovereign

**HIGHLY COMMENDED  
TURNTABLE**



**O**rigin Live is a small, engineering-led company on England's South Coast. Until a few years ago the top of the Origin Live turntable tree, the Sovereign uses the same belt-driven design with an outboard motor to the back right, and the deck on three adjustable towers form factor shared by the rest of the line. However, refinements abound, including the machined aluminium top with an acrylic lower section, and a felt mat. It's a non-suspended design, although there is a significant amount of damping built into those three adjustable feet. Origin Live uses a very high tolerance bearing, but the usual slow insertion of bearing into housing is not so prevalent, because Origin Live designer Mark Baker doesn't think going for almost interference fit is the best way to make a bearing noiseless. The motor sits in a separate, high-mass housing with an external power supply block set away from the deck itself.

In our test (with the 12" Enterprise arm), Alan Sircom said, "The Sovereign is one of the most speed stable turntables I've heard at or near the price." He continued saying, "It's easy to point out highlights on the Sovereign's performance because they are pretty much all highlights. But, speed stability aside, the big highlight has to be the sense of scale it brings to the bass. Bass notes are textured, deep, powerful, and dynamic."

"I've tested Origin Live decks before," said Alan. "I know how good they can sound, but that foreknowledge left me unprepared for just how good the Sovereign with the 12" Enterprise arm can sound." He concluded by saying, "It's one of those rare turntables that doubles as a time machine; you don't just play an album, you are transported to where you were when you first heard that album."

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