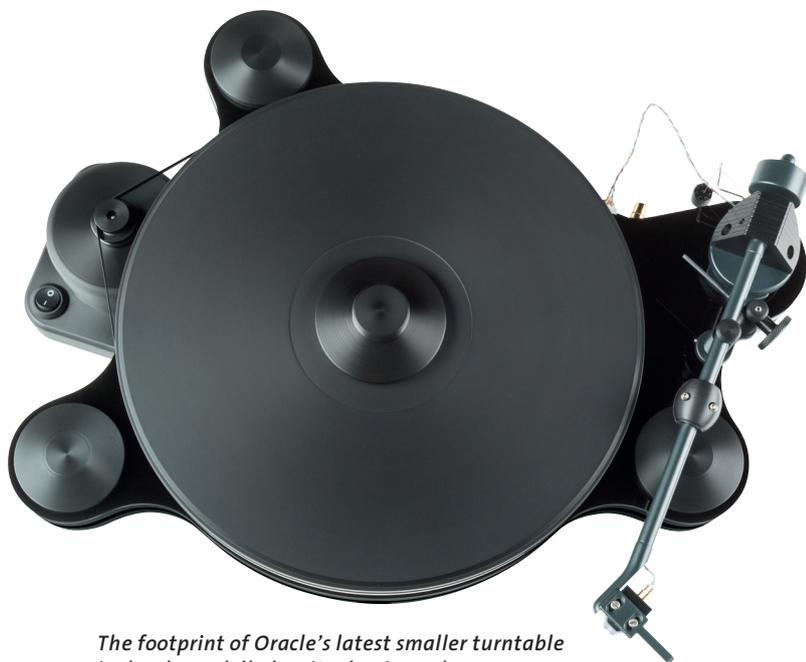




PRINTED MATTER

Reinventing oneself can be rather tricky, particularly if the fate of the company in question has depended on a single product for decades. Canadian manufacturer Oracle Audio still took the plunge.



The footprint of Oracle's latest smaller turntable is closely modelled on its classic predecessor

Yes, indeed, the Delphi. What else? Both names Oracle and Delphi are inseparable and in spite of numerous attempts to establish another successful product line beyond the turntable flagship and its unique style, things simply never worked out. The Origine is Oracle's latest attempt to establish an affordable turntable on the market in a creative and single-minded way, without neglecting to pay due homage to the Delphi. Based in the Canadian province of Quebec, Oracle Audio has been producing audio equipment with a lot of passion since 1979. Up to the present day, Jacques Riendeau, the brother of the company's founder Marcel Riendeau, has been the driving force behind the development of new devices. The Delphi was



The Origne has its own specifically designed unipivot tonearm

the company's first turntable and is subject to further enhancement even today, yet nowadays it carries a price tag somewhere in the region of five digits in Euros. The Origne does not look as fancy as its predecessor, but comes at a price of "merely" two and a half grand – including the tonearm. The basic layout of the Delphi is indeed recognizable on closer inspection: The three characteristic absorption stands are also a feature of the Origne, however, in this case they are clearly shorter; the whole record-player does not stand as tall as the Delphi.

Our Origne is kept in plain black, yet this is not a must: A white version is available, too. But the colour scheme does not end here: A layer of transparent acrylic is embedded between two layers of plastic forming the base of the chassis – our turntable even has three layers. Our test specimen has two thin layers in unobtrusive blue with a black barrier in between, but other variants



The counterweight is exactly at the same level as the tip of the stylus

are available as well. The reason for this has not only to do with appearances but mainly acoustics: The plastic sandwich is a highly efficient absorber, an effect explicitly desired by the manufacturer. Should the users feel like trying out some new colours, they can even change the inlays. There is no integrated lighting, whoever wants to see the colourful stripes shine has to rely on an external source of light. I am almost sure that the engine block situated close to the edge could house a suitable LED if you wanted to shine a light on the record player as it were, because this is the only place on the turntable where you can find the voltage needed – just as a small suggestion to our Canadian friends. The three stands isolate the housing from the ground. Not as well as it is the case for the Delphi but surely sufficiently. The height can be adjusted, so it is no problem to horizontally align the Origne. The platter bearing is set into the centre; I cannot say anything about the collar bearing. A steel axle with a partially ground radius protrudes from the platter – this is how it is done today. The platter consists of the omnipresent Delrin (POM) with all of its desired qualities for the purpose. The bearing runs smoothly, does not create much noise and does not give any cause for complaint. A relatively hard flat belt drives the platter on its edge, the motor being, as already mentioned, on the left. The latter is a traditional synchronous motor powered by a heavy supply unit with a transformer. This almost goes without saying, as modern switch-power

Equipment

Pickups:

- Denon DL-103R
- Lyra Kleos

phonostages:

- CH Precision P1
- MalValve preamp three phono

Pre-amplifier:

- MalValve preamp three line

Amps:

- Bryston 4BSST
- Accoustic Arts AMP II

Speakers:

- JBL 4355

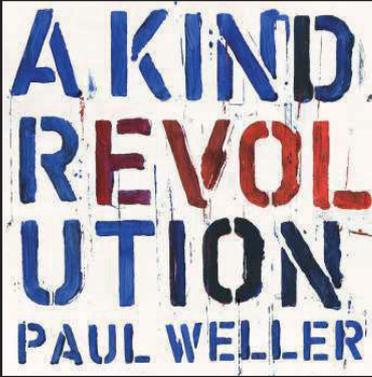
Opponents

Record players:

- Thorens TD-907
- Elac Miracord 90 Anniversary



The extremely quiet motor is located to the left of the base of the chassis



Records played

Paul Weller

A Kind Revolution

Rickie Lee Jones

ST (MFSL 45)

Roger Waters

Is this the Life We Really Want

The Obsessed

Sacred



The three absorbing stands are height-adjustable



The bearing of the Origine tonearm is a steel tip, the counterpart is to be found in the "bell"

supplies provide DC, something that does not work with a synchronous motor. The drive is as quiet as a mouse, you do not even hear it if you listen to quiet music at night. There is no speed control, if you want to listen to records at 45 rpm, you have to manually switch the belt. The Origine is predominantly made of plastic, the ribbed surface of some parts can be clearly seen in many places. The reason for this is simple: The parts are produced with the aid of a 3D printer, which makes it difficult to obtain a perfectly smooth surface without much more effort. However, this makes it possible to create parts in almost any kind of shape without using a lot of machinery. This has become a familiar sight for tonearms; however, this is the very first time that I have encountered something like this for a chassis. Actually, this is somehow hard to understand because the necessary tech is quite common nowadays. The Origine

comes with its own tonearm by the rather creative designation of "Origine Tonearm". It is a unipivot construction with a nine inch tube whose material still escapes me – it does not resonate at any rate. At the one end, a deep-hanging weight provides the required stability and there does not seem to be an absorbing device. The actual counterweight is screwed into a threaded bolt on the same plane as the tip of the stylus, rendering the tonearm neutral at least



The connector of the bearing is set into the base by means of a flange



Oracle Origine

• price	2,500 Euro
• distribution	ibex Audio, Heidenheim, Germany
• telephone	+49 7321 25490
• internet	www.ibex-audio.de
• 2 years warranty	
• w x h x d	483 x 127 x 356 mm
• weight	about 8 kg

Bottomline ...

» Oracle's new entry level model is brilliant in both design and sound. The turntable masterly combines substance and control and is fully recommended for more demanding pickups.





The delicate headshell makes it possible to adjust the pickup without any problems

if level. A delicate headshell is mounted at the other end of the tonearm. A special feature of the arm is a movable weight on the pipe dubbed "olive". It makes it possible to change the effective mass of the tonearm. People who want to play around with it are advised to use a measuring record to determine the resonance of the arm and the system. You can get good results for the more common pickups with the olive slightly off-centre towards the headshell; this makes it easy to balance the most common pickups.

An Ortofon 2M Blue, which complements the blue acrylic inlay perfectly well, is also included. It is recommended to set the arm a tad lighter. The MM does the job easily and smoothly, yet the Origine deserves even more: Under the headshell, the Denon DL-13R turns the turntable into a gorilla on steroids, bringing considera-

ble mass and power to bear. The Oracle reproduced Paul Weller's latest album "A Kind Revolution" flawlessly and filled the room with his deep-pitched playing without any ado and too much effort. The 45 rpm version of Rickie Lee Jones' immortal debut album was next in line and it also proved an excellent match for the Oracle. Displaying tight control and no excessive sharpness, the turntable from north of the 49th parallel easily coped with the challenging voice. What stood out here too was the admittedly not huge but nevertheless finely differentiated representation of space. You are looking for a record-player for any situation? This could be the perfect choice!

Holger Barske



The Ortofon 2M Blue is part of the deal, yet the Origin can handle pickups of a much higher quality



The steel bearing shaft protrudes from the Delrin platter



An optional dustcover can be put over the entire turntable



The "olive" is a movable weight on the tonearm