



AUDIO ORIGAMI PU7-12

This 12 inch tonearm is the long version of Audio Origami's PU7 which won Best Arm in our 2007 Awards (*Hi-Fi World* January 2008). There is a price differential of £350 between the two arms, meaning the 12inch model costs £1,999 with the standard bead blasted and anodised finish. This is available in pretty much any colour that you can think of - the company's website shows, amongst others, a pink example, and they have also made arms in the colours of both Watford and Sunderland Football Clubs no less! The internal wiring is Cardas 33GA although there is the option of a Kondo loom for an extra £350, as fitted to this example. The chrome plated finish cost an extra £1,000 (gold is also available for the same price) resulting in this particular arm costing £3,349. It's expensive, but the finish is stunning by any standards.

The acoustic-foam filled arm tube itself is made of aircraft grade aluminium or brass, as is the bell housing in which the bearings sit. The chosen arm mass and, occasionally, finish dictate material choice. The bespoke nature of these arms is demonstrated by the fact that the mass of the arm can, if required, be fine tuned to match a certain cartridge. Designer and maker John Nilsen tells me that each arm takes about one hundred and sixty

hours to make, and that certain other tweaks are available dependent on the purchaser's choice of cartridge and deck. The headshell, also of aircraft grade aluminium, is described as a push fit into the arm tube - using approximately half a ton of pressure on a 10 ton press in the factory! The arm sits in four, 7 ball-race bearings that are mounted within a twisted cage rather than the more conventional crown mounting. These are very finely toleranced to within a few microns. On the other side of this sits the counterweight - brass for the plated arms, stainless steel for the anodised models, on a stub connected to the arm tube by a sleeve. Mounting is by either a 23mm Rega mount or a 30mm Linn one.