



# Audio Origami

## UniArm tonearm

**ON THE FACE** of it, the UniArm looks like the love child of a Naim Aro and Audio Origami's legendary PU7. The arm tube and headshell certainly pay homage to the PU7, and also the company's RB7. In common with all of the AO arms, each UniArm is made to order by arm designer and maker, John Johnnie 7 Nilsen. You can opt to have any custom colour and finish that you want for an additional cost. However, the standard finish of bead-blasted matt silver looks very elegant and will be a perfect match for most turntables. Other optional upgrades include a 12in model and a titanium armtube instead of the standard aluminium one. Most of the cost of the UniArm arises from the use of an expensive sapphire bearing for the pivot inside a double cup arrangement (to accommodate the damping fluid) and a special hardened tungsten-tipped spike. A comprehensive set of accessories is bundled, including alignment gauges, headshell spirit level and silicone damping oil for the unipivot.

### Head of the class

The headshell is essentially a PU7 braced model with slots for attaching and adjusting the cartridge. If any alteration to the azimuth is required, it can be set by moving a small weight on the side of the bearing housing. The thick design of the armtube is also that of the PU7. It contains resilient OFC wire with silk insulation and the tube is foam filled. At the cartridge end, the wires are fitted with four Cardas gold PPC E cartridge tags. The other ends of the wires are fed through the top of the pivot housing and descend gracefully to terminate in a Cardas tonearm DIN connector. The female part of the connector is fitted with Audio Origami's super OFC external cable and terminated in gold Neutrik/Rean RCA plugs. As a result of the unipivot design and this method of connection, the whole arm wand can be removed and replaced with another, which may be of interest for people with more than one cartridge. The



UniArm is fitted with an arm clip and arm cueing device, both of which are integrated into the design, so no additional holes are required to be drilled into the deck.

Extending from the rear of the arm, the counterbalance weight is supported on an adjustable pillar. This is fitted below the height of the armtube on the unipivot housing to lower the centre of gravity and provide the necessary stability for the unipivot design. My review sample is fitted with a single Rega mount, but other mounts, such as the Rega 3-point and Linn, are available upon request.

The effective mass of the arm is about 11g, so it should work well with moving magnet and moving coil mid-compliance cartridges. I fit a Lyra Clavis DC MC cartridge to the UniArm and apply a small bead of the silicone damping oil to the centre pivot. After setting it up, I first check the resonance using a copy of the Vinyl Essentials test record. The actual resonance is very subtle (showing the silicone damping is doing its job well) and is very close to 10Hz. This is where it should be and promises great bass control.

A splendid CBS recording of Haydn's *Symphony No. 59* performed by Lestro Armonico is presented with

a robust, full and open sound with plenty of width and depth. The soundstage extends well beyond the area between the loudspeakers. There is also lots of detail in the upper registers and I am drawn into the excitement and energy of the piece that Derek Solomons conveys with his performance on the violin.

Another CBS recording of Barbra Streisand singing *Tomorrow* certainly has the wow factor. Streisand's voice is out in front of the orchestral backing, sparkling and clear. The crisp and punchy bass line is really tight with a great tonal clarity.

A direct-to-disc recording of Mozart's *Divertimento No. 11 K251* played by the Toronto Chamber Orchestra is captivating, exciting, full and musical. I am struck by the sense of reality and the feeling of a live performance in my sitting room.

### Call to arms

The UniArm allows my cartridge to perform at its very best with superb detail and excellent imaging, coupled with a silky-smooth top end. The arm also provides a tight, punchy and well-controlled bass response. This is a really high-performance prospect at an extremely competitive price. **NR**

#### DETAILS

**PRICE**  
£1,300 plus delivery

**WEBSITE**  
[audioorigami.co.uk](http://audioorigami.co.uk)

#### OUR VERDICT

