

soundbites

HI-FI WORLD

ORIGIN LIVE LINEAR FLOW 2 'SHIELDED' £380

Origin Live is best known for its fine turntables, tonearms and upgrade kits, but did you know the company also produces cables? The Linear Flow 2 'Shielded' interconnects reviewed here are based upon a balanced design that aims to reduce the amount of inductance present within the cables by twisting the leads. It's interesting to see that the Linear Flow 2s utilise high purity copper as the principal component instead of silver or even a silver coating. Many users see copper as more tonally balanced, which should provide a more neutral flavour. The addition of over five dielectric insulators promise to enhance that balanced sonic aim by providing an even response.

The samples sent to me by Origin Live featured good quality

Eichman Bullet plugs. The Linear Flow 2s arrive in both shielded and unshielded forms. I listened to the former, coated with 95% nickel plated copper braid (plus an attached earth lead for each interconnect) superior in that they target RF interference promising further detail enhancements

During sound tests, I hung the cable off my Icon Audio PS3 phono amp which, in turn, connected to an Avid Acutus deck with SME IV arm and Benz Glider cartridge. This high resolution source would highlight any obvious and subtle changes found when compared to the reference Chord Anthem 2s. In sound terms, over varying musical genres, the Origin cable exhibited an obvious firming of the bass which became more solid and well sculptured. The effect was to give the lower frequency regions an

obvious character as well as power. This extra layer of aural detail was also transferred to the midrange frequencies. Here, tonal information was enhanced, sometimes with a fine etching that linked into the Origin Linear Flow 2's admirable transparent qualities. It's also the latter that helped the cables to offer a more open presentation, giving the soundstage a less constricted feel. In fact, listening to the Linear Flow 2s felt like a box lid had been lifted, allowing the sound to soar forth. Do audition this when next you consider upgrading your interconnects; it's an excellent cable. **PR**

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