Clearaudio Weightwatcher and Origin Live Electronic Stylus Gauges

Accurate, repeatable measurement of tracking force is an essential to optimizing

the performance of any phono cartridge. With the more exotic models its vital

if you are going to hear what

they're capable of. That means investing in an electronic stylus gauge.

Once the exclusive preserve of dealers and the well-healed audio enthusiast with everything, electronic gauges were exotic and seriously expensive. Now, all that has changed. First the Clearaudio approached the \$100 barrier, and then the Origin Live shattered it – and they are both just as accurate as their more

expensive ancestors.

Performance-wise there's nothing to choose between them however, the Origin Live is smaller

and cheaper but runs on watch

batteries (there's a spare included).

The Clearaudio uses good old AAAs meaning that spares are never far away, which for me gives it the edge. Those unlikely to be setting up turntables at midnight in far off hotel rooms might choose to save the difference and spend it on a record or two. Either one of these balances will perform faultlessly – you pays your money and takes your choice. RG

Clearaudio Weightwatcher Price: \$115

Audio Reference Tel. (44)(0)1252 702705 Net. www.clearaudio.de

Origin Live Stylus Balance Price: \$55

Origin Live Tel. (44)(0)2380 578877 Net. www.originlive.com