

Minitest

Analogue Studio

PRICE: £27 TELEPHONE: 01733 350878 WEBSITE: analogueseduction.net

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Cork and rubber
mat

ORIGIN
UK

THICKNESS
3mm

FEATURES
Cork and rubber
granules
composition

DISTRIBUTOR
Analogue Seduction

THERE'S A WIDE selection of composition mats on the market that are made out of cork and rubber and this is a fine example. The mat is 295mm in diameter and made from a combination of cork and rubber granules. This composite layer mat should suit most turntables and has been specifically designed to absorb resonances and vibrations.

As the mat is 3mm thick, which is similar in thickness to other mats that are often supplied with turntables, it may be that the VTA will not be affected, so no adjustment of the tonearm height will be necessary.

A good feature of this mat compared with some other cork and rubber options is the recess in the centre to accommodate the label area of the record. This ensures that the mat is supporting the playing surface and not any thick centre label.

The mat's surface is gentle on the vinyl and also grips well on the record. This will eliminate any



slippage of the record on the turntable. This could make the use of a record clamp unnecessary if you previously had to use one on a hard platter surface to prevent slippage.

Perfect harmony

I find this mat provides a genuine improvement in both instrument positioning and focus. Again, with the Vivaldi recording the oboist stands confidently at the front of the string continuo. In particular, the strings sound very natural and have a fantastic presence in my listening

room. The bass response of the Laurent Garnier track is clean and well controlled. While each singer still retains his individuality, The King's Singers seem a tad more harmonious. This superb clarity indicates to me that the mat is effectively reducing unwanted reflections of record vibrations back into the cartridge ●

VERDICT

A really great value upgrade that provides significant audible improvements.

