hi-fi+ EDITOR'S CHOICE 2026

SME Ltd

sme.co.uk

under £1,000 £1,000-£4,999 £5,000-£9,999 £10,000-£49,999 £50,000-£99,999 over £100,000

Model 60 One of One Turntable

If SME's Model 60 is the vinyl summit, its 'One of One' iteration is the ultimate seal of that 'forever home' deal. In celebration of the company's 75 years, just 75 Model 60s will be produced, each with its own, truly unique, colour.

The Model 60 uses an intelligent suspension system that allows control in both vertical and horizontal planes, while the main bearing uses a silicone fluid dampening system. Add in an acoustically treated main chassis, sub-chassis and platter, and an outboard independent speed control, and you have a turntable that is as isolated from its surroundings as possible.

Meanwhile, the Series VA tonearm, exclusive to the Model 60, uses a non-metallic armtube made from an advanced polymer resin prized for its high density and rigidity. It's little surprise the Model 60 is so sonically 'uncompromising'. Extremely precise and authoritative, unlocking a whole load of LP, it will be the last turntable its fortunate owners ever buy.

Reviewed in Issue **233**

Quintessentially English, based in West Sussex, SME is behind some of the most celebrated, critically acclaimed turntables on the planet. With 80 years of precision-made engineering experience under its belt (it produced scalable models for the exhibition and model engineering trade as well as aircraft parts in its early days), even renowned automotive and aerospace companies have sought SME's expertise for their top projects. Its high-end decks are testaments to British engineering and craftsmanship, exuding confidence and assurance in every detail.

Operating from a world-class engineering facility, SME manufactures every component in-house to exceptional tolerances. The company has a 'no-compromise' pursuit of neutrality, using high-pressure die-casting and exotic materials like magnesium to eliminate resonance and friction. Eschewing fleeting trends, SME takes structural rigidity and longevity exceptionally seriously, treating turntables and tonearms as laboratory-grade instruments. This obsession with engineering excellence ensures that the playback system adds little to no character of its own, extracting the maximum amount of information from the record groove.

