



SME Model 6 - It's Not Just Another Turntable

People unfamiliar with SME might look at the Model 6 and see an ordinary-looking turntable with an MDF plinth, a plain acrylic platter and Sorbothane feet. They might assume the Model 6 is built to hit a price point then a badge is slapped on.

Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. The Model 6 is a highly engineered turntable that offers phenomenal performance for its price. If you know SME, you know SME would never put their badge on anything that was not truly extraordinary.

As a result of their work with some of the world's leading aerospace, medical and Formula 1 manufacturers, and their 75 years of precision engineering expertise, SME has access to a wealth of engineering and materials science knowledge that makes it unique in the audio industry.

A few years ago the new management at SME began to ponder the nature of future generations of SME products and began experimenting with polymer resin materials. As they developed various formulations SME discovered this material had superb vibration damping and isolation properties. After much testing SME arrived at one formulation for the turntable plinth and another for the turntable footers.

The plinth of the Model 6 is not constructed from MDF; it is made from a solid block of the harder polymer resin formulation which is then CNC machined to take its final shape with the desired cut-outs. The plinth offers an outstanding level of vibration damping – much better than MDF, and it is also very rigid. The polymer resin plinth is one of the secrets to the Model 6's exceptional sonic capabilities.

The Model 6's isolation feet are another important engineering accomplishment. SME settled on a softer formulation of their now proprietary polymer resin for the turntable's four footers. The footers are specially shaped to be self-levelling and provide an exceptional degree of isolation.

Thanks to the elegant simplicity of their design the plinth and footers work together to provide the superb resonance control characteristics that are normally only found in much more expensive turntables.



Stuart McNeilis, CEO of SME, explains the Model 6's unique qualities at Axpona 2023.

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Acrylic platters are often used in turntables to save cost and weight. Acrylic was chosen for the Model 6 to save weight but acrylic is not an easy material to work with. Acrylic tends to warp when it is machined, and the last thing you want on a turntable is a platter that is less than perfectly flat. There are many quality grades of acrylic but SME found only the very highest grade acrylic could be machined to the necessary standard.

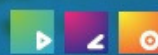
Although it surprisingly costs more than an aluminum platter, the platter on the Model 6 delivers the low weight needed to match the low-noise motor system, and it also offers the anti-warping properties that will ensure the platter remains absolutely flat with zero runout over decades of use.

Three key engineering innovations that separate the Model 6 from the crowd are the plinth, the platter and the isolation feet. These three features enable the Model 6 to deliver a superior level of vibration isolation and damping. The Model 6 provides a stable platform which allows your phono cartridge to perform closest to its theoretical capability for a fraction of the cost of other turntables with similar properties.

You might be surprised to know the new VA Series tonearm on SME's flagship Model 60, which is by a wide margin the best performing tonearm SME has ever built, is also made from a special SME polymer resin. Thus, some of the technology developed for the Model 6 is so advanced that it made its way into SME's new reference Model 60! Therefore we confidently say: listen to the SME Model 6, it's not just another turntable.

SME

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