



Although it is likely to cut space on your audio equipment rack, an equipment platform is a worthwhile investment. It not only helps to isolate your kit from external vibrations, but it also prevents them from transmitting sounds to the rest of your system. A platform is particularly important for record decks and CD players where mechanical vibrations can cause an increase in jitter, resulting in degradation of the audio signal.

Other components can also benefit from isolation, such as power supplies and amplifiers, while valve-based equipment is more susceptible to microphony where mechanically transmitted sounds can cause the elements in a valve to vibrate, which directly modulates the audio signal. Apart from providing isolation some platforms can actually play a part in dissipating vibrations as part of their design, which is also very beneficial.

String Suspension Concept SSC Solobase

PRICE: £180 CONTACT: 0203 5442338 WEBSITE: nunudistribution.co.uk

DESIGNED TO SUPPORT different audio components like CD players, amplifiers, turntables, loudspeakers and valve-based equipment, the technology behind the SSC Solobase is claimed to offer a relaxed presentation, a greater sense of body to instrumental images, better dynamics, more grip and presence in the bass and better overall coherence throughout the tonal range. It can also be used with subwoofers and floorstanding speakers on metal, glass or wooden hi-fi racks and supports.

The construction consists of a single wooden plinth that has a total of nine SSC elements fitted to the underside.

The SSC elements are individual feet that have internally sprung disks with a black felt pad on the base (so that they are not too sticky when you're trying to move the platform).

The Solobase measures 440 x 25 x 360mm (WxHxD) and can also be custom made to your own size. It can support equipment up to 80kg in weight and is available in black, white and silver beech finishes. All SSC products are engineered and manufactured in Germany.

Installing the SSC Solobase under my turntable results in a subtle improvement to the sound, especially in the midrange, which seems to

sound more effortless. Also, the bass response is a little tighter and better controlled. Overall, the sound feels slightly more natural and realistic. Everything sounds a little cleaner, although this was quite a mild improvement to my ears.

This is a discrete unit that's both lightweight and rigid. It will enhance the appearance of any system and yield subtle sonic improvements.

VERDICT

A platform that makes your music flow more easily and tightens up bass response



Hi-Fi Racks Ltd Podium isolation plinth 22mm

PRICE: £85 CONTACT: 01572 756447 WEBSITE: hifiracks.co.uk

THIS RUTLAND-BASED FIRM produces a wide range of supports and the 22mm Podium isolation plinths are available in three standard sizes with a choice of four finishes: oak, satin black, high gloss black and high gloss white. If you're looking for a different width and depth you can customise your order online.

The isolation plinths are handmade to very high standards. Shipped fully assembled, the isolation support is manufactured from planks of oak that have been bonded with the grain 'concave to convex' to make it very

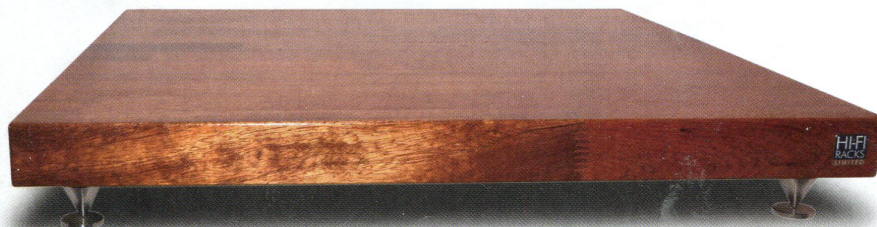
rigid, so that it has excellent acoustic properties. This construction also eliminates the risk of warping over time, which can be an issue with a single piece of solid wood. As you would expect with solid wood, the plinth is very heavy and sturdy. This is an essential requirement for audio equipment supports in order to eliminate resonances and dampen out any vibrations from the equipment.

All of Hi-Fi Racks' isolation plinths are supplied with isolation spikes in a choice of black or stainless steel, with or without locking nuts. For anyone

that is worried about the spikes punching holes in the top of their hi-fi rack – fear not! A set of four isolation cup protectors for spikes are also included in the bundle.

With the 445 x 400 x 22mm (WxHxD) Podium isolation plinth fitted under my equipment, the bass noticeably tightens up and the transition from soft to loud passages somehow seems faster.

The Podium isolation plinth certainly offers noticeable improvements in musicality, clarity and dynamics and offers great value.



VERDICT

Superb value for money isolation plinth that improves speed and tightens up bass response

