



Origin Acoustics OS54W



specific piece of music can convince tens of thousands of people to move in unison to that beat.

At home, there are a few ways of acquiring a similar effect. You can turn your inside music system way up until everyone outside can hear it clearly, but that invariably creates an uncomfortably loud area close to the speakers, as well as those uncomfortably soft areas the further away you move from them.

There's also the more modern alternative of the recently popular portable wireless speaker. But, unless you have the more expensive and decent kind, all you're really providing is some strained bass and annoyingly sharp mids and treble.

If, however, you have a bit of money to spend, you can opt for the more pleasant and effective outdoor system.

Admittedly, my experience with consumer outdoor music systems is limited, but I have been to enough open-air restaurants to know when things have been done poorly and when they been done right.

From a logical perspective, the OS54s have all the hallmarks of something that has been done right, which shouldn't be surprising, seeing that Origin Acoustics is the new brand from SpeakerCraft co-founder and CI guru, Jeremy Burkhardt. He has got back together with his two Origin(al) SpeakerCraft co-founders to head up Origin Acoustics.

The enclosures are made from tough ABS thermoplastic that can survive between -20 and 80 degrees Celsius before starting to strain. The woofers feature injection-moulded graphite (IMG) cones, which not only makes them extremely weather resistant, but also ensures a prompt and accurate sound signature.

The tweeters are rugged aluminium, making them impervious to the elements as well as remarkably detailed. And the tools required to set them up on their swivelling mounting brackets are minimal.

Basic, neat and designed to handle pretty much anything the elements throw at them, provided you don't live at the North or South Pole.

The OS54s can be vertically or horizontally mounted, based on preference to

What's the best way to start a party outside?

Well, there's always booze, the communal thing we all ingest to help chemically alter ourselves into the same mood. But not everybody drinks...

Then, there's food! We all need to eat and it also provides a common denominator for easy conversation. But that's more of a ... food party than an

actual party, party.

Well, wouldn't you know it, the best way to start a party outside, is music! The BPM of the music helps sync everyone's heartbeats to its tempo and the chord structures provide the overall tone and therefore mood of everyone who hears it.

It's basic biology and psychology. Just look at an aerial shot of one of the world's larger music festivals where one DJ and a



your environment, and they rotate on a single axis so a little bit of thought and prep is required before deciding on a home for them. Moisture resistant plugs are used to attach speaker wires to the body, which complete the all-weather package here.

Of course those speaker wires will have to be attached to a decent amplifier and Origin Acoustics suggests two amplifiers from the Crown amplifier catalogue, a brand I used to use in my medium-long stint as a night club owner, to complement their systems.

Because I don't have an outdoor music system, I attached my test pair to my highly capable and relatively new Yamaha amplifier in my TV room with some long speaker cables, which allowed me to point them outside. A bit of a caveman fix, but effective enough for me to get the general idea.

For the majority of the time though, they lived indoors. Cleverly however, this model (as well as the other models up in the series), have a bass switch for both indoor and outdoor use.

For an outdoor environment the OS54s naturally compensate by being extra bassy, which helps cut through all the ambient sounds that exist outdoors: like birds, traffic and your annoyed neighbour

shouting over the wall for you to turn the volume down.

But for indoor environments, where those ambient sounds are blocked off and bass bounces off things at a much closer proximity, the switch provides a more relaxed grunt.

The overall sound signature is clear and crisp while managing to be warm in all the right places. The upper bass is punchy and detailed with a nice tint of lower bass fullness.

Progressing from there, the midrange is tight, providing excellent vocal representation and an upfront liveliness to the whole character. And then there's the treble, which is studio accurate with a brilliance that travels very well outside.

There's a particularly nice balance to the general sound outdoors with what could be termed as a slightly more clinical performance indoors, according to my semi-informed ear. But, taken as a whole, I liked the confident and eager nature of these speakers.

One day I'll splurge on a dedicated outdoor music setup – but, for now, I'll probably be suggesting the OS54s to all my old night club/restaurant/bar-owning buddies.

Justin Beachcroft-Shaw

VITAL STATS

Woofer	1x 124 mm injection-moulded graphite cone
Tweeter	1x 25 mm aluminium dome
Enclosure material.....	ABS
Grille material	Powder-coated aluminium
Power handling	5 – 70 watts
Frequency response....	68 Hz – 24 kHz
Impedance.....	8 ohms
Sensitivity	88 dB (± 3dB)
Dimensions (WxHxD) 170 x 266 x 180 mm

Verdict

Clear, eager and rugged, the OS54s upgrade your outdoor fun in an easy-to-use package.

Price

R2 995 each
(available in white finish only)

Supplied by Volco Enterprises
011-608-3500

e-Mail sales@volco.co.za

Website www.volco.co.za

OUR RATING: 82/100