STEREO HEADPHONES
SE-MASTER1
DELIVERING THE EXHILARATION OF MUSIC TO THE WORLD.

ONE VISION AT THE HEART OF OUR HISTORY IN SOUND.

Pioneer’s history in quality audio equipment began 80 years ago, with the vision of ‘delivering the joy of music to people far and wide’. In 1937, we produced the A-8, the first dynamic speaker to be produced in Japan, and we have been committed to high fidelity sound reproduction ever since. Whether we are making home speakers, car speakers or headphones, our focus is always on the pure, faithful reproduction of sound.

We have been developing and producing ground-breaking headphones for more than half a century, starting with the SE-1 headphones in 1960. Now we’re writing the next chapter in our long history of technical supremacy and purity in sound design.

THE FLAGSHIP SE-MASTER1 CONTINUES OUR LEGACY.
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF SOUND REPRODUCTION.

HALF A CENTURY OF GROUND-BREAKING HEADPHONE TECHNOLOGY

1937 The A-8: The first dynamic speaker to be produced in Japan.


SE-1 The Pioneer headphones story begins. These fully enclosed, dynamic SE-1s used stereo sound to deliver a wide sound stage.

SE-100 Audiophiles loved the lightweight SE-100s, which used electrostatic technology rather than magnetic circuits to achieve a superb sound.

SE-205 These consumer-oriented, fully enclosed headphones remained a hit for a long time; we released them as the 205, 255, 305 and 405 series.

SE-700 The world’s first high-polymer elemental headphones. Won Gold Sim and Top Form prizes at the prestigious design awards in Italy.

SE-200 The classic Monitor 10s were designed for monitoring in broadcast studios – but received excellent reviews from audio professionals and audiophiles alike.

SE-11 Popular headphones that used our proprietary high-grade, variable chamber and open-air design to reproduce an extremely natural, dynamic sound.

SE-7000 Premium headphones with HA-1000 amplifiers, the SE-1000s were acclaimed as the ultimate example of electrostatic technology’s crystal clear sound.

MASTER-10 Variable chamber, open-air headphones that benefited from decades of headphone technology know-how.
2015
THE FLAGSHIP SE-MASTER1 IS BORN
COMBINING TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP WITH VISIONARY INNOVATION.

Open-air dynamic stereo headphones
SE-MASTER1

MADE IN JAPAN
HAND-CRAFTED BY A MASTER

Nothing is held back in the production of these flagship headphones. Each SE-MASTER1 is assembled by a master specialist at the Tohoku Pioneer Plant, Yamagata Prefecture – the birthplace of many iconic speaker models. We pour our advanced technological know-how into every step of the journey – from design to production and quality control – so your headphones deliver excellence without compromise.
THE JOY STARTS THE MOMENT YOU TOUCH THE HEADPHONES. EVERY ELEMENT WAS DESIGNED FOR YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE.

THE INDUSTRY’S FIRST ALUMINIUM DIAPHRAGM WITH CERAMIC COATING

THE LIGHTWEIGHT, 25µ-THICK ALUMINIUM DIAPHRAGM IS TREATED WITH A CERAMIC COATING TO ADD RIGIDITY, ENHANCE ITS NATURAL PERFORMANCE, AND DELIVER EXCELLENT SOUND QUALITY. THE RESULT IS A HIGH-RESOLUTION SOUND ACROSS ALL FREQUENCIES WITH MINIMUM NOISE.

Rigid diaphragm edges eliminate distortion
The diaphragm’s edges are ribbed and made with a sturdy poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK) film to deliver a smooth sound and reduce distortion.

SUPERIOR HIGH-RESOLUTION PLAYBACK
The SE-MASTER1s are capable of reproducing high-resolution audio of up to 85,000 Hz, more than double the minimum requirement for high-res headphones (40,000 Hz). So you can experience every unadulterated detail of your high-res music.

OPTIMUM SOUND QUALITY ACHIEVED USING COMPUTER AIDED ENGINEERING
Our specialists used Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) to select, prototype and test the best materials for the diaphragm and magnetic circuits, ensuring superb sound characteristics and clarity.

LOW RESONANCE BUILD
2.65 kHz edge resonance 15 kHz dome resonance 30 kHz dome partition resonance

DRIVER UNIT FREQUENCY CHARACTERISTICS

RESISTOR
INPUT TERMINAL BOARD
DAMPER
FRAME
Yoke
ACOUSTIC ABSORBENT
Magnet
COPPER CAP
POLE PIECE
VOICE COIL
PEEK COMPOUNDING FILM EDGES
25µ ALUMINIUM DIAPHRAGM WITH PCC (PARKER CERAMICS COATING) FINISHED

RESISTOR
INPUT TERMINAL BOARD
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PEEK COMPOUNDING FILM EDGES
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TAKE THE SOUND OF YOUR HEADPHONES TO ANOTHER LEVEL WITH THE HIGH RESOLUTION HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER U-05

The U-05 headphone amplifier features a high-grade D/A converter to reproduce high resolution digital sound sources. Combine with the SE-MASTER1 headphones for an audio experience that is out of this world.

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF THE SE-MASTER1 AT WWW.PIONEERELECTRONICS.COM/HOME

ENGRAVED SERIAL NUMBER
Each SE-MASTER1 is engraved with its own serial number, making it unique to you.

INTERCHANGEABLE TENSION RODS TO ELIMINATE WEARER FATIGUE
The SE-MASTER1s feature the industry’s first detachable lateral pressure rods, enabling you to choose your preferred headband tension. Simply change the tension rod to achieve either more, or less lateral pressure and enjoy superb sound isolation and comfortable wear over long periods.

FULL BASKET SYSTEM DELIVERS AN ENERGETIC, LOW-RESONANCE SOUND
Originally developed for car speakers, the full basket system reduces resonance while delivering an energetic sound. The speaker unit is firmly secured using aluminium and the base is finished with ASA resin, which adds excellent weather resistance.

FLOATING STRUCTURE FOR LOW DISTORTION AND CLEAR SOUND SEPARATION
Rubber is inserted in the links between the base, housing and hanger parts to prevent vibrations and interference. Inherited from our speaker ranges, this floating structure also improves separation between left and right to deliver an enhanced sound stage.

ALUMINIUM HOUSING ENSURES TIGHT BASS AND CLEAR MID AND HIGH FREQUENCIES
3.5mm-thick aluminium alloy housings minimise resonance from the driver units to produce an accurate sound with a clearly defined, tight bass and high-res mids and highs.

LIGHTWEIGHT BUILD AND NATURAL FIT
The headband and hanger parts use a super-duralumin alloy to achieve a light, natural fit that lets you forget everything but the music you’re immersed in.

CUSHION FOR ADDED STABILITY
The wide, suede-feel head cushion can be adjusted to 16 different positions, giving you excellent comfort and stability at home.

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BULKY HOUSING FOR LOW DISTORTION AND CLEAR SOUND SEPARATION
Rubber is inserted in the links between the base, housing and hanger parts to prevent vibrations and interference. Inherited from our speaker ranges, this floating structure also improves separation between left and right to deliver an enhanced sound stage.

ALUMINIUM HOUSING ENSURES TIGHT BASS AND CLEAR MID AND HIGH FREQUENCIES

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AIR Studios was established in 1969 by world famous producer Sir George Martin. Since then it has earned a reputation as the world’s finest recording studio, earning the trust of many world famous artists.

AIR Studios in London is world-famous for its matchless music production facilities and is the recording studio of choice for many iconic artists. The SE-MASTER1s are the first headphones ever to be named AIR Studios Monitor Reference Headphones, a rare honour that we wear with pride.

SE-MASTER1
Approved AIR Studios Monitor Reference Headphones

AIR Studio’s technical director Tim Vine-Lott was integral in the tuning of the SE-MASTER1s. Tim’s discerning ears helped us to compare the headphones to premium reference speaker systems and identify the adjustments needed to ensure the headphones delivered the same sound quality. This process of fine-tuning was repeated until the headphones met AIR Studios’ high standards, delivering faithful reproduction of all sound sources – from the down to the most subtle highs to the deepest bass.

PUTTING THE SE-MASTER1 TO THE TEST WITH AIR STUDIOS

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TIM VINE-LOTT
AIR Studios Technical Director

I’ve tuned many audio products in the past, but tuning the SE-MASTER1s was an interesting and challenging experience, completely different to working with amplifiers and speakers. Headphones have none of the adjustable electric circuits you’d find in amplifiers or speaker systems, and the smallest change could have unexpected effects on sound quality – e.g. if we slightly altered the size of the hole controlling the back-pressure of the driver units. But, working with Pioneer’s engineers, we were able to achieve the best sound quality. I really hope everyone will enjoy the wonderful sound of the SE-MASTER1.

As technical director at AIR Studios, Tim Vine-Lott has been involved in producing countless albums for artists and soundtracks for films. Responsible for granting AIR Studio Certification to audio visual products that pass strict standards, he works with Pioneer in tuning our amplifiers, speakers and now headphones.