



Press Release

SC-11S1 – fully balanced, stereo control amp/SM-11S1 – fully balanced, stereo power amplifier
£2500/£2500

For the first time in nearly twenty five years Marantz is set to release a mid-priced pre/power amplifier combo. And the SC-11S1 and SM-11S1 are well worth the wait.

The new models will amply fill the quite significant gap between Marantz's flagship amplifier set-up – the £15,000 Legendary trio – and the next model down – the more modestly priced £2500 PM-11S1 integrated design.

As much as cost considerations would allow, the SC-11S1 and SM-11S1 implement technology found in Marantz's flagship Legendary models. That said, both represent totally new designs and feature many proprietary circuits along with other innovative engineering features.

The Technology

The £2500 SM-11S1 is a fully balanced stereo power amplifier capable of producing a very conservatively estimated 200W into 8 ohms. As the amp adheres to Marantz's intelligent parallel layout topology, it doesn't suffer from any left/right channel interference, resulting in a separation equal to that of mono designs. As an upgrade path the SM-11S1 can also switch to mono operation, doubling its power output in the process.

The SM-11S1 embraces a two-stage amplifier construction to achieve excellent instantaneous current supply capability. The first section is a current-feedback voltage amp identical to that in the flagship MA-9S2. The second stage involves a current-feedback power buffer amp with a new cascade push-pull circuit and LAPT transistors for ultra stable power delivery.

Obviously, the quality of the power supply in a power amp is extremely important. The SM-11S1 follows the design concept of the flagship MA-9S2, using an identical massive toroidal transformer with double core, acoustic isolation plates, coring of silicon steel sheets, housed in an aluminium case. The result cuts leakage flux, suppresses trace vibration, and reduces the effect of magnetic bodies. It is attached to the chassis by means of a 10mm thick aluminum base plate.

Class-leading components include Schottky diodes, customised Marantz block capacitors and

Blue star cap film capacitors, while the display can be turned off to further improve performance. Two pairs of low impedance WBT speaker terminals only add to the already impressive quality.

Meanwhile, the £2000 SC-11S1 is a fully balanced, two-channel control amp. Unparalleled attention to detail in the design and development of the input/output, volume and power supply circuits means the SC-11S1 leads the field in sound quality.

Offering incredibly precise, error free performance via its electric linear control volume, comprising four Wolfson WM8816s, the SC-11S1 has a spectacular channel separation of over 100dB at 20kHz and a high frequency response of up to 150kHz. And a floating control bus system offers great flexibility in terms of set up, with multi-channel configuration a possibility.

It uses no less than 34 of Marantz's latest generation, well-known HDAM® (Hyper Dynamic Amplifier Module) modules. In SA3 guise, these comprise a complementary cascade push-pull circuit, employing surface-mounted high-precision metal film resistors (MELF). They are designed to be as compact as possible, so that the circuit path is minimal, and deliver amazingly high-speed signal handling. These are joined by the usual plethora of class-leading Marantz components as seen in the power amp above.

Other highlights include: copper shielding throughout; an input buffer to minimise crosstalk; a power supply circuit with choke input; a low noise toroidal transformer shielded in aluminium; a balanced input headphone amplifier; a subsonic filter for analogue replay; and trim adjustment.

Sockets include two balanced and three unbalanced inputs, along with a phono connection. On the way out you'll find a pair of unbalanced and balanced outputs.

Completing the package on both designs is the usual Marantz tank-like build quality, with a double-layer bottom plate and substantial shock-absorbing feet to virtually eliminate sound-degrading vibration, while a 5mm thick copper-coated aluminium lid tops off the casework.

The SC-11S1 and SM-11S1 will be available from January 2008.

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Marantz is listed at the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the consolidated group has 628 employees in more than 50 countries. Marantz is a part of D&M Holdings Inc. The company can trace its roots back to the dawn of the first mono LP, when Saul Bernard Marantz, a native of New York, was unhappy with the equipment available to play his cherished record collection on. So he built his own! Saul officially founded the Marantz Company in 1953. Then, as now, the company's cornerstones were quality and innovation. For over half a century Marantz has been developing unique technologies and bringing landmark hi-fi and home entertainment products to market through its tireless and extensive R&D programmes. Such commitment to audio and video excellence ensures each Marantz design delivers class-leading performance. Additional information is available at www.marantz.com.

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Note to the editor, not to be published:

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