

Product Announcement

Musical Fidelity M8xi

See the latest offering in our illustrious history of Super Integrated amplifiers.

Didcot, Oxfordshire – 20th February 2020

Henley Audio are delighted to announce the imminent arrival of the new Musical Fidelity M8xi integrated amplifier. Teased at various international shows during 2019, the latest Super Integrated amplifier in Musical Fidelity's long and illustrious history of high-powered designs (which started with the A1000 back in 1990) is a high-end marvel that combines masses of power with true audiophile sonics and ultimate convenience.

In essence, the M8xi is a separate DAC, pre-amplifier and two monobloc power amplifiers housed within one large chassis. With a development logic that saw the design team approach each of the three sections independently, the M8xi is capable of performing to an exceptional standard in each department.



The entire signal path employs a low-feedback configuration, as with previous Musical Fidelity designs. However, with the M8xi changes have been made to achieve higher power, lower distortion and better overall sound quality. The bridged output stage efficiency has been increased, yielding about 10% more power while maintaining manageable voltages on the supply rails; and the whole driver stage has been designed to operate in pure Class A. The result of this combination is a wide sound stage that allows both micro and macro dynamics to have an impact. Vocals have more subtlety, detail and presence. Large scale music has a depth, width and incredibly dynamic presentation. In essence, the M8xi sounds like a small Class A amplifier but with huge power.

The most striking aspect of the M8xi design is the high power output, generously rated at 550W into 8Ω (870W into 4Ω and Peak 1.6kW into 2Ω). The purpose of this power is to drive almost any speaker available on the commercial market today with comfort and control, regardless of bigger and/or insensitive designs. The output devices themselves are high-stability, thermally compensated Darlington pairs, and they are capable of delivering such high output largely thanks to the generously specified transformers. The power amplifier is laid out in true dual-mono with dedicated power supplies for each channel for absolute signal integrity.

The pre-amplifier of the M8xi is designed just as a dedicated pre-amplifier would be, largely operating in Class A and running off its own independent power supply. Featuring both XLR and RCA inputs, it employs low-noise op-amps in all sections for maximum signal integrity. The laser-trimmed volume control has a precision-matched position attenuator with maximum 0.2dB mismatch at lower volume levels, which guarantees precise imaging and soundstage integrity whether being played quiet or loud. As is common amongst other Musical Fidelity amplifiers, the M8xi also boasts a switchable Home Theatre (HT) input. This input couples directly to the power amplifier stage, allowing for a suitably specified AV processor to control the home cinema volume levels while benefiting from the sonic character of the Musical Fidelity.

The M8xi also features XLR and RCA balanced outputs, for wider system applications. There are variable outputs for connecting to additional external amplifiers, as well as an RCA fixed stereo output for analogue recording or alternative applications, such as connecting an external headphone amplifier.

The M8xi also boasts a five input DAC, powered from its own dedicated power supply. Based around the Texas Instruments PCM5242 low-distortion and low-noise DAC chip, which is also employed in many other premium products in the hi-fi industry as well as in previous Musical Fidelity products, the M8xi has two coaxial (S/PDIF), two optical (S/PDIF) and one asynchronous USB Type-B input. The coaxial and the USB inputs are capable of supporting hi-res audio streams up-to 24-bit / 192kHz, and the optical input is capable of supporting up-to 24-bit / 96kHz. For maximal performance, all data streams are up-sampled and re-clocked by an internal converter to reduce jitter and remove unwanted artefacts in the sound.

The M8xi was a huge technical challenge, but thanks to an extensive R&D process it delivers in all aspects with its rich sound and extensive feature set. Finished in an industrial chassis with an anodised aluminium front panel and large side-mounted heatsinks, it is a successful continuation of Musical Fidelity's history of producing true Super Integrated amplifiers.

M8xi: £5,649.00 (SRP)

The Musical Fidelity M8xi will arrive in the UK during Spring 2020.

See it on display at The Bristol Hi-Fi Show in February 2020.

Technical Data:

Power Output (20Hz - 20kHz):	550W per-channel (8Ω) 870W per-channel (4Ω)
Maximum Output Voltage (20Hz – 20 kHz):	67V RMS (20Hz to 20 kHz)
THD+N (20Hz – 20 kHz):	< 0.004% typical (XLR)
Signal/Noise Ratio:	> 86dB A-weighted (XLR)
Input Impedance:	25kΩ (RCA), 50kΩ (XLR)
Frequency Response (10Hz – 100kHz):	+0 , -1dB
Maximum Peak Output Current:	105A
Damping Factor:	150
Output Devices:	3+3 pairs (bridged arrangement) per-channel
Analogue Inputs:	4 pairs line level RCA connectors 2 pairs line level XLR (balanced) connectors
Digital Inputs:	2x Coax S/PDIF up to 24 bit 192kHz 2x Optical S/PDIF up to 24 bit 96kHz 1x USB B Asynchronous USB up to 24 bit 192kHz
Analogue Outputs:	1 pair line level RCA fixed 1 pair pre-out RCA variable 1 pair line level XLR variable
Digital Outputs:	1x Coax S/PDIF up to 24 bit 192kHz 1x Optical S/PDIF up to 24 bit 96kHz
Dimensions (W x H x D):	485 x 185 x 510mm
Max. Consumption:	2000W
Weight:	48kgs



Notes for Editors

Consumer Contact for Publication

Henley Audio
Didcot, Oxfordshire

Tel: 01235 511 166
Email: sales@henleyaudio.co.uk
Web: www.henleyaudio.co.uk

MUSICAL FIDELITY

About Musical Fidelity

Musical Fidelity represents the best of good quality hi-fi. Built on over thirty years of audio expertise, they design and engineer powerful hi-fi separates that deliver exceptional sound, high technical performance, excellent value for money and a superb build quality.

Now owned and operated by Audio Tuning, an independent audio specialist company based in Austria (famed for their Pro-Ject Audio Systems brand), Musical Fidelity still retains its proud British heritage, with every product the new company designs continuing to boast the natural, authentic sound that has made the name so respected across the world. The Musical Fidelity range is choreographed to embrace both traditional and modern requirements.



About Henley Audio

Henley Audio has been importing and distributing industry-leading hi-fi equipment to the UK and Ireland since 1997. With a passion for great sound and a firm focus on brand integrity, we work to deliver excellence in both product and service.

Formed as the result of a management buy-out of Ortofon UK, Henley Designs Ltd. (trading as Henley Audio) operates in-house sales, marketing, service, support and warehouse teams in order to offer the full turn-key solution for suppliers. The brands we represent are not only highly-regarded in their own right, but they also share a symbiotic relationship with other brands in our portfolio.

For more information, visit www.henleyaudio.co.uk

Press Contact

Simon Powell

Henley Audio, Unit B, Park 34, Collett, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7WB
Tel: 01235 511 166

Email: simon@henleyaudio.co.uk

Web: www.henleyaudio.co.uk

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