

Product Announcement

Musical Fidelity A1

The return of a hi-fi classic.

Didcot, Oxfordshire – 04 August 2023

Henley Audio is delighted to announce the imminent availability of the Musical Fidelity A1 integrated amplifier. Unveiled to the press and public at Munich High End 2023, this is one of the most anticipated model reintroductions of recent years. True to its original intention as an amplifier designed simply to make music, the A1's Class A topology and instantly recognisable industrial design have been updated only to meet modern technical expectations.



The A1 (SRP £1,499.00) delivers a sweet, fluid, characterful sound with a beautiful soundstage surrounding natural instruments.

A1 features include:

- ✓ 25W (8Ω) pure Class A integrated amplifier
- ✓ Ability to dynamically “slide” into Class B when the allowable current draw is exceeded
- ✓ Built-in low-noise MM/MC compatible phono stage for connecting a turntable
- ✓ Direct switch on the front panel bypasses the gain stage before the volume control stage
- ✓ Discrete symmetrical electrical layout featuring 25A Planar Audio transistors in the power stage
- ✓ Low-noise pre-amplifier circuitry taken from the “original” design
- ✓ New remote control for adjusting volume only
- ✓ Same industrial design as the original A1, with modifications for better heat management
- ✓ Updated power supply inspired by the original A1 design, featuring dedicated power supplies for the left and right channel

A1: £1,499.00 (SRP) / €1,599.00

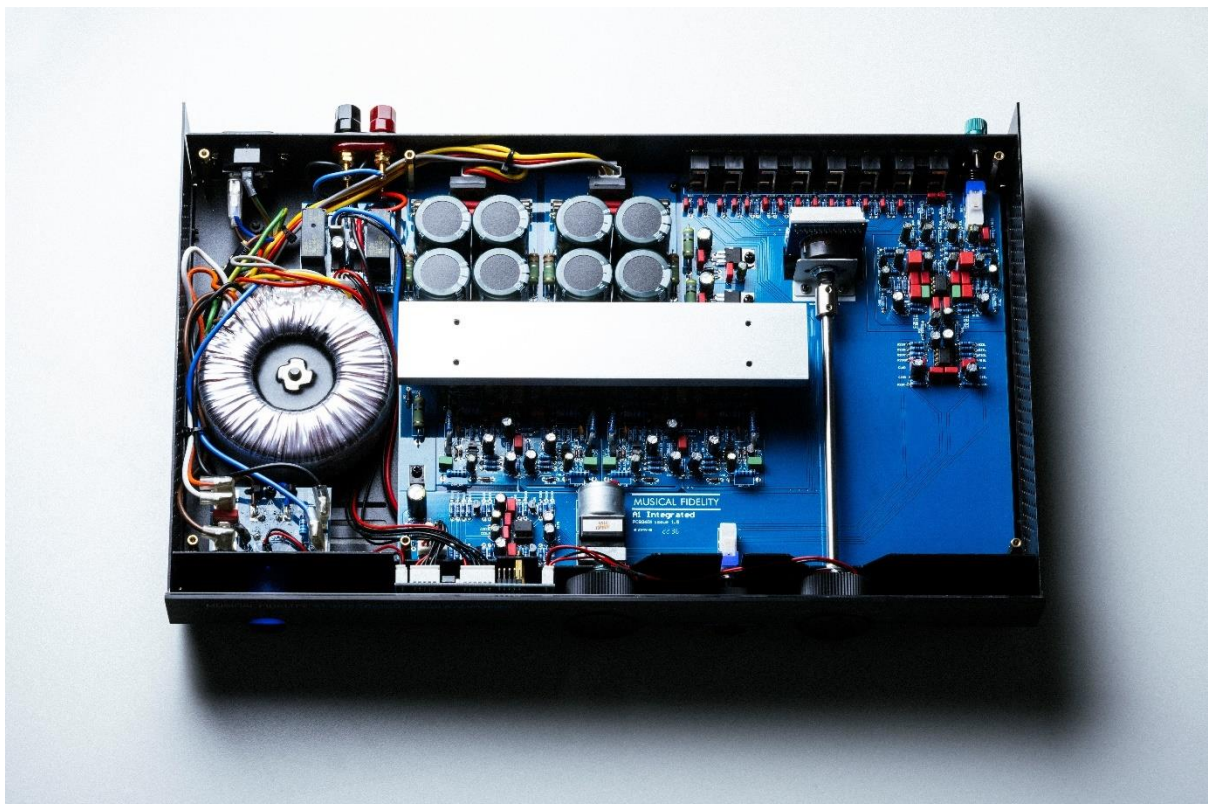
The Musical Fidelity A1 is available across the UK from August 2023 in a Black finish.

A1 in detail

The Musical Fidelity A1 is a piece of hi-fi history. First produced in the 1985, its pure Class A electrical design was famous for its ability to work with a wide variety of equipment of the day while delivering a sound performance like nothing else. The new generation of A1, released in 2023, stays faithful to the original design in almost every way, only making changes to improve specific technical characteristics and satisfy modern requirements.



The electrical layout of the A1 features completely discrete, fully symmetrical pure Class A technology. Delivering 25W of power (to an 8Ω load), it can also handle 25A of maximum current output. Though these numbers may look low compared to some modern amplifiers, the A1 can still drive more complex speakers thanks to its ability to slide (not “switch”) into Class B operation when further current draw is temporarily needed.



The 1980s blueprint directly inspires the new A1's transformer design; however, Musical Fidelity updates the system with more efficient dual-mono split-rail windings and superior components, improving stability and heat management. Fully independent supplies for the left and right channels now power the amplifier, bringing better power handling and stereo imaging. Each power amplifier now has double the supply capacity, reducing ripple and noise artefacts.

The low-noise pre-amplifier circuitry is the same as the original A1, though this area also benefits from new modern touches. First, the DIRECT control on the front panel allows users to bypass the Gain stage before the musical signal reaches the volume dial – switch this on, and the pre-amplifier stage applies roughly 10dB less gain, suiting it to more modern, high-gain source devices that may benefit from a wider volume dial range. Second, using a new ALPS RK series motorised potentiometer for the volume dial allows greater accuracy and reliability and means the 2023 A1 amplifier works with a remote control for volume adjustments.



Alongside five RCA stereo inputs, fixed-level and variable outputs, the A1 also features a high-quality built-in phono stage. The phono input allows for direct connection to a turntable, whether it has a moving magnet (MM) or a moving coil (MC) cartridge. The low-noise design and automatic impedance-matching for MC cartridges make this a viable – and convenient – solution for vinyl record lovers.

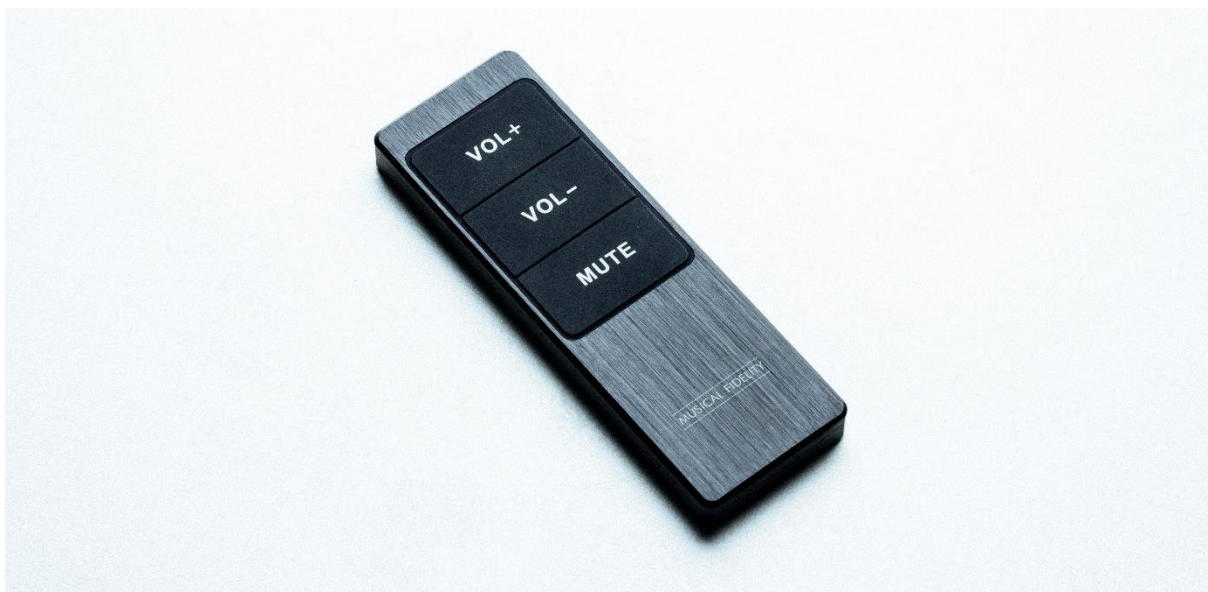


The industrial design of the A1 repeats that of the 1980s original, with its angular front panel, full-length top-mounted heatsink and side-mounted ventilation panels. The few minor modifications enhance the user experience and manage the heat output from the pure Class A technology. When combined with the intricate workings, the result is an amplifier that takes you right back to the original design brief for the A1: to enjoy music.

The A1 sounds sweet and fluid, facilitating a beautiful environment for your favourite music to come alive within. When paired with well-matched speakers in a suitably sized room, it delivers a warm, full, exciting sound without harshness. Just pure music.

Technical Data:

Power Output:	25W per-channel (8Ω)
Voltage Output:	42.5V peak-to-peak
Current Delivery:	25A peak-to-peak
Damping Factor:	150
Gain (@ max. volume):	32dB (Direct Mode) 42dB (Normal Mode)
Output Devices:	2 per-channel
Signal-to-Noise Ratio:	82dB
Channel Separation:	85dB
Frequency Response:	10Hz – 40,000Hz (+0, -1dB)
Line Level Sensitivity:	300mV RMS (nominal) / 8V RMS (max.)
Line Level Input Impedance:	25kΩ
Tape Out Impedance:	220Ω
Pre-Out Impedance:	100Ω
Inputs:	1 x Phono RCA Stereo Input (Switchable MM / MC) 5 x Line-Level RCA Stereo Inputs
Outputs:	1 x Line-Level RCA Stereo Fixed Output (Tape) 1 x Line-Level RCA Stereo Variable Output (Pre) 4mm Banana/Binding Posts (Speaker)
Power Consumption:	130W (Max.) 0W (Standby)
Dimensions (W x H x D):	440 x 68.3 x 283.3mm
Weight:	10.5kg net



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, it designs and engineers powerful hi-fi separates that deliver exceptional sound, high technical performance, excellent value for money and superb build quality.

Now owned and operated by Audio Tuning, an independent audio specialist company based in Austria (famed for its 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 choreographs its range 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 it represents 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

Murdo Mathewson, Ginger Dog Comms
Tel: +44 (0)7960 018147
Email: murdo@gingerdogcomms.com

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