

SC-001 & TB-50

Two new products for analog playback.

DS Audio introduces two new products for analog playback: the SC-001 Sonic Cleaning Brush, the world's first sonic-vibration record cleaning brush; and the TB-50 Tube Phono Equalizer, a hybrid tube phono stage developed exclusively for DS Audio's optical cartridges. The following document answers the questions most frequently asked by press and dealers.

SC-001 Sonic Cleaning Brush

Music begins before the needle drops.

Q1. What is the SC-001?

A. The SC-001 is the world's first sonic-vibration record cleaning brush. Unlike conventional brushes that merely sweep the surface, the bristles themselves vibrate at approximately 11,000 cycles per minute (183 Hz), reaching into the record groove to physically lift away embedded dust. This is sonic — that is, audible-range — vibration, and is not ultrasonic.

Q2. Why did you develop this brush?

A. Until now, the record-cleaning market has been divided between two extremes: inexpensive brushes selling for around US\$10, and costly ultrasonic cleaning machines. We saw a clear gap between them — for a product more effective than a basic brush yet far simpler to use than an ultrasonic machine. We believed that was where the true need lay, and that is where we began.

To draw a parallel, the inexpensive brush is the manual toothbrush of vinyl care. Today, most people brush their teeth with an electric toothbrush — because it cleans more effectively. We believe record cleaning, too, needs its electric toothbrush. The SC-001 was born from that idea.

Q3. What powers it, and how long does the battery last?

A. The SC-001 runs on two AAA batteries. Based on a typical cleaning of approximately 5 seconds per side, a single set of batteries provides enough power to clean approximately 3,000 record sides.

Q4. Is the brush replaceable?

A. Yes. The brush head is available separately, and users can replace it themselves.

Q5. How does the static elimination work?

A. The SC-001 addresses static in two stages, with no grounding required. First, the low-charge bristle material is positioned close to vinyl (PVC) on the triboelectric series, so when the brush contacts the record, almost no electrons transfer between them — suppressing static at its source. Second, a conductive fiber behind the head discharges any static already on the record. Together, these two stages deliver static elimination that significantly outperforms conventional antistatic brushes.

Q6. What is the basis for the bristle-material selection?

A. The bristle material was chosen by measurement, not by feel. Using a high-sensitivity camera, we visualized the dust on each record surface and quantitatively analyzed the amount remaining before and after cleaning. We compared several candidate materials and adopted only the one with the highest dust-removal rate. This measurement-based selection is the foundation of the brush's performance.

Q7. Could the vibration damage the record?

- A.** No. The bristles are soft, and the brush rests only lightly on the record. The vibration amplitude is very fine — it lifts dust rather than abrading the groove. In fact, the load on the record surface is lower than that of wiping by hand under pressure.

Q8. Pricing, availability, and where to buy?

- A.** The SC-001 ships from August 2026 through DS Audio's distributor network. The suggested retail price is approximately US\$1,200 (final pricing varies by region due to VAT and other local taxes).

TB-50 Tube Phono Equalizer

Two souls. One music.

Q1. What tubes does the TB-50 use, and are they replaceable?

- A.** The TB-50 uses ECC82 (12AU7) vacuum tubes — the same tubes as the flagship TB-100. Unlike the TB-100, the TB-50 does not require matched pairs and is not susceptible to howling, so the tubes are user-replaceable.

Q2. What input transistors does it use?

- A.** The current-transmission stage uses Japanese-made low-noise transistors, and the amplification stage is built around op-amps.

Q3. Does it have XLR (balanced) outputs?

- A.** No. The TB-50 has unbalanced (RCA) outputs only.

Q4. What is the difference between the TB-100 and the TB-50?

- A.** The TB-100 is a pure-tube design, with a more emotional, classic tube character. The TB-50 is a hybrid: the cartridge signal comes in through a transistor current-transmission stage, is amplified (including RIAA equalization) by an op-amp section, and then passes through a vacuum-tube buffer at the output, which adds a touch of tube harmonics. The result has more speed and clarity than the TB-100, with a hint of tube color — the best of both solid-state and tube worlds. The two should be regarded not as higher and lower tiers, but as two different sonic directions.

Q5. Pricing and availability?

- A.** The TB-50 ships from July 2026. The suggested retail price is approximately US\$6,000–7,500 (final pricing varies by region due to VAT and other local taxes).

DS Audio

Digital Stream Corporation

4-50-40 Kamitsuruma-Honcho, Minami-ku, Sagami-hara, Kanagawa 252-0318, Japan

Tel +81-42-747-0900 Fax +81-42-747-6011 Web <https://ds-audio-w.biz/>

Press inquiries: Tetsuaki Aoyagi E-mail support@ds-audio.biz

PRESS ASSETS



Scan to download images,
catalogs, and video.