



High-End Headphone of the Year

MrSpeakers VOCE

MrSpeakers is led by Dan Clark, a keen-eared headphone enthusiast and an engineer's engineer. The company takes its name from an earlier phase in Clark's career where he served as an accomplished loudspeaker design specialist for hire. The VOCE is MrSpeakers' first (and presently, only) electrostatic headphone design.

The VOCE's electrostatic driver diaphragms are larger than most (88mm in diameter), yet also thinner (2.4 microns thick) and lower in mass. Completing the picture are what MrSpeakers terms "ultra-thin metal stators for superior sound". It also features a Nitinol memory metal headband frame beneath which is suspended an adjustable leather headband strap. The frame also carries a pair of elegant matte silver ear cup yokes to which open-back ear cups are mounted. The ear cups' rear sides are protected by open-design spider web-like grills while their lower edges provide connectors for the VOCE's included sets of custom-made signal/bias voltage cables.

"From the moment I connected the VOCE to my electrostatic energiser (that is stat-speak for an electrostatic headphone amplifier), I was struck by the sheer transparency and lucidity of its sound and by the incredible amount of musical information it was able to extract from favourite recordings.," said our reviewer. "Even more impressive was the manner in which it managed to combine breath-taking clarity with exemplary smoothness and control. Some electrostatic headphones exhibit heightened levels of treble sheen, overshoot, or glare, but the VOCE exhibited none of these typical electrostatic flaws."

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