

PRESS RELEASE

QUAD

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Above: Quad Elite CDS CD player, Elite FM radio tuner, Elite Pre preamplifier and Elite Stereo power amplifier

‘ELITE’ AUDIO COMPONENTS TAKE QUAD TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Quad replaces the highly rated 99 Series with an all-new range of components, including a CD player, radio tuner, preamp and two power amps

Cambridgeshire, England – Quad is delighted to announce the launch of the Elite Series, a new range of audio components replacing the long-running and highly successful 99 Series, which first appeared in 1999. Like their predecessors, the Elite components are compact in size and designed with performance, simplicity and versatility firmly in mind.

The Elite models supersede their 99 Series counterparts product-for-product. The initial launch consists of five components: the ‘Elite CDS’ CD player (£799.95), ‘Elite FM’ tuner (£599.95), ‘Elite Pre’ preamplifier (£849.95), ‘Elite Stereo’ stereo power amplifier (£699.95) and ‘Elite Mono’ monoblock power amplifier (649.95). Two further components will join the range by the end of the year: a second CD player that incorporates digital preamp functionality and an additional stereo power amp to replace the existing 909.

Improving Upon a Classic

In designing the Elite Series, the challenge for Quad's engineers was to improve upon the established 99 Series without undermining the qualities that made the range so successful. Outwardly, the components are similar, retaining the midi-width aluminium casework and distinctive 'look' of the 99 Series models, with enhanced build quality and subtly updated styling.

However, the critical changes are within. A painstaking redesign operation began three years ago, with every internal component scrutinised in turn. Through an exhaustive process of modifying, measuring, listening then modifying again, the 99 Series models gradually evolved into their Elite counterparts. Throughout this process, Quad's original slogan – "the closest approach to the original sound" – was paramount. Only modifications that brought about a tangible improvement in sound quality were sanctioned for the final designs, with tight tolerances strictly adhered to in order to ensure perfect matching from unit to unit.

'Elite CDS' CD Player

The CDS enjoys significant revisions throughout, including a new transport mechanism and servo system. Audio data is regulated by a high-performance master clock to minimise jitter (digital distortion), then fed to a top-end Crystal 24-bit/192kHz DAC, which replaces the older 24-bit/96kHz chip used by the player's predecessor. The highest quality electronic components are specified throughout, with multi-layer circuit boards and Quad's advanced, proprietary filtering and control software.

'Elite FM' Tuner

The Elite FM is a clean-sheet design incorporating a high-grade FM stereo decoder with discrete Class A stages, coupled to Class A output stages and high-quality polypropylene capacitors in the signal path. Genuine audiophile quality is assured from FM signals anywhere in the world, eclipsing the performance of many highly rated and considerably more costly hi-fi radio tuners in the process.

'Elite Pre' Preamplifier

The Elite Pre forms the heart of any system in which it is placed, and a great deal of work has been undertaken to further enhance the excellent levels of musical transparency delivered by its 99 Series predecessor. This has been achieved by careful component selection and re-tuning of the signal path, whilst maintaining the advanced facilities that are unique to Quad's solid-state preamps, including Quad Link and Amp Bus connectivity (see below), bypass-switchable filter adjustment for bass and treble, and Quad's unique 'Tilt' control that tailors the entire frequency response to suit the user's preferred balance.

The Elite Pre is packed with technical innovation including noiseless solid-state signal switching and digitally addressed analogue volume and balance controls, which track both left and right channels with exceptional accuracy (better than 0.1dB). A highly specified phono stage is provided for turntables, too.

'Elite Stereo' and 'Elite Mono' Power Amplifiers

The Elite Stereo and Elite Mono power amps have been carefully revised to ensure they retain their predecessors' acclaimed musicality, whilst delivering enhanced punch and drive, alongside greater finesse

and resolution. New ultra-low-noise transformers are used, and all power supply components have been specially selected following extensive listening tests. Delivering 2x80W and 150W respectively, both Stereo and Mono offer instantaneous overload recovery and full protection against over-driving without resorting to output line fuses or relays, which degrade the quality of the audio signal. Both amps deliver more sonic presence and impact than their predecessors, whenever the music requires it.

Elite System Concept

Individually, each Elite component has been engineered to perform at the top of its class. Combine them to form a complete high-performance music system and the standard they set is higher still. Their smart, understated looks and compact dimensions are both practical and pleasing to the eye, while Quad's proprietary Quad Link and Amp Bus technologies ensure perfect synergy between every Elite component, optimising sound quality and simplifying system connectivity and control.

The Quad Link system bus is used to connect the Elite CDS CD player and Elite FM tuner to the Elite Pre preamp. It carries the audio signal in fully balanced form, plus system commands enabling all three components to be controlled via a single remote handset. Similarly, Amp Bus delivers balanced audio and control signals between the Elite Pre preamp and Elite Stereo or Elite Mono power amps. Several power amps may be daisy-chained via Amp Bus, giving the user the option to bi-amp or even tri-amp with ease. All Elite components (except the Elite FM) also provide conventional RCA sockets, for connection to components from other brands.

Every Elite component has been designed to deliver the best possible user experience. The build is solid, the controls straightforward and the sound painstakingly tuned to maximise musical enjoyment. The natural, unforced sonic scale, pace and dynamism that made the 99 Series so highly rated remains intact, imbued with even greater resolve to deliver the most captivating musical performance possible, whilst maintaining highly competitive pricing throughout the range. Quad products have always been about the musical experience, first and foremost, and never has this been better exemplified than by the performance of the new Elite Series.

Jason Greenslade, a highly experienced audio equipment engineer who has held senior positions with Arcam, Cyrus, NAD, Roksan, Soundcraft and TAG McLaren Audio, leads the design team charged with delivering the Quad Elite Series. Given the longstanding success of the 99 Series, his responsibility is considerable, yet Quad has allowed Jason and his team all the time and resources they require in order to ensure every Elite component surpasses the performance of its predecessor.

According to Peter Comeau, Director of Acoustic Design for IAG (Quad's parent company), the Elite Series represents the best solid-state component range Quad has ever produced. "Listening to the Elite pre/power with the Elite CD player as its source I am struck by how clean, clear and effortless is the musical delivery of this combination," says Peter. "This Elite system has now taken pride of place in my listening room."

The Quad Elite CDS, Elite FM, Elite Pre, Elite Stereo and Elite Mono are available from September.

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KEY FEATURES – Quad Elite CDS

- D/A Converter: Crystal CS4398
 - DAC type: Hybrid multi-bit delta-sigma
 - Maximum resolution: 24-bit
 - Oversampling: x8
 - Outputs: RCA (analogue); optical (digital)
 - Quad system connection: Quad Link
 - Dimensions (WxHxD): 321x80x310mm
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KEY FEATURES – Quad Elite Pre

- Tone adjust: bass and treble filters; Quad Tilt
 - Line-level inputs: 4x RCA (inc. tape loop)
 - MM/MC phono input
 - Outputs: 1x pre-out (RCA)
 - Quad system connections: Quad Link; Amp Bus
 - Supplied with Elite system remote handset
 - Dimensions: (WxHxD): 321x70x310mm
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KEY FEATURES – Quad Elite Mono

- Power output (8 ohms): 150W
 - Power output (4 ohms): 220W
 - Quad system connection: Amp Bus
 - Other inputs: RCA
 - Outputs: five-way binding posts
 - Facility to daisy-chain for bi-amping/tri-amping
 - Dimensions: (WxHxD): 321x70x310mm
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KEY FEATURES – Quad Elite FM

- Tuning range: 88-108MHz
 - Channel spacing: 50kHz
 - Presets: 20
 - Aerial inputs: 2x75 ohms
 - Quad system connection: Quad Link
 - Powered by Quad Elite Pre
 - Dimensions (WxHxD): 321x70x310mm
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KEY FEATURES – Quad Elite Stereo

- Power output (8 ohms): 2x80W
 - Power output (4 ohms): 2x120W
 - Quad system connection: Amp Bus
 - Other inputs: RCA
 - Outputs: five-way binding posts
 - Facility to daisy-chain for bi-amping/tri-amping
 - Dimensions: (WxHxD): 321x70x310mm
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QUAD

Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, Quad boasts the longest and most distinguished history. The company has been at the cutting edge of audio since 1936, continually pushing back the boundaries of performance with technologies both new and established. In 1953, the Quad II valve amplifier was launched, setting new standards for audio amplification, and three years later Quad invented the first full-range electrostatic speaker – later known as the legendary ESL 57.

Throughout the ensuing years, Quad products have continued to win worldwide acclaim, building a reputation for excellence that bears comparison with the most distinguished brands in any field. Quad has been part of the International Audio Group (IAG) since 1998, following its acquisition from the Verity Group (alongside Wharfedale). The company's design and technical support teams and much-admired servicing department continue to be based in Cambridgeshire, England, supported by key personnel who have worked with Quad for decades.

IAG's funding ensures that Quad's current range boasts many award-winning audio components, including the latest generation of ESL electrostatic speakers, class-leading valve amplifiers, dynamic 'box' speakers and the new Elite Series – a range of solid-state audio electronics that fuses high-end performance with innovative connectivity. With more exciting launches planned for 2010/2011, Quad continues to be driven by the philosophy of its founder, Peter Walker, to produce "the closest approach to the original sound".

www.quad-hifi.co.uk

IAG

IAG (International Audio Group) is a manufacturer of audio equipment for domestic and professional use, plus professional lighting systems and luxury yachts. With its headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Asia and offices (including R&D) in the UK and North America, IAG is a manufacturer with a truly global reach.

IAG's audio business employs more than 2,000 people worldwide. Its factory complex in Shenzhen, China, is one of the largest custom-designed consumer electronics manufacturing facilities in the world and benefits from an exceptional level of vertical integration, with all component parts – even the tooling – made in-house. The Group's domestic audio brands – Audiolab, Castle Acoustics, Luxman, Mission, Quad and Wharfedale – all enjoy a worldwide reputation for excellence, with illustrious histories that stretch back decades. Top-class British audio engineering remains critical to these brands, with world-renowned designer Peter Comeau leading an acoustic design team brimming with international talent.

The combination of rich brand heritage, purpose-built production facilities in China and experienced audio engineers from around the globe makes IAG a unique proposition in the world of consumer electronics.

www.iaguk.com



For more information, product samples and high-resolution images, please contact Tim Bowern or Murdo Mathewson
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