



PIONEER ELITE SC-57

Better than my SEPARATES?

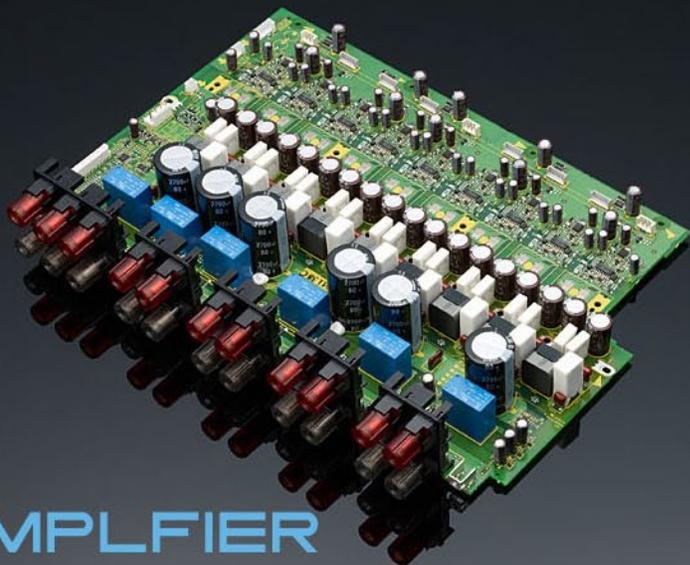
YES!

■ Okay, I traded in my very nice home theater separates for a home theater receiver. Why? Because it's better. And not just a little. The difference is substantial. And yes, really, a receiver!

Let me give you a little background. I have this disjointed system. My front speakers are the MIRAGE OMD-28s, the center is a REVEL C-52, sides are PARADIGM ADP -350, rears, REVEL Performa m22's. The sub's are JL Audio f1 13 and a REVEL B-250. Yes, every man should have two subwoofers! But let's stay on track about the receiver.

The problem I had was that the sound, though very good, was never what I thought it could be. It just never came together, and even with two subwoofers, I never achieved the bass performance that a REVEL B-250 and a JL f1 13 should produce.

When I took home the PIONEER ELITE SC-57. I wasn't expecting a huge difference, but from what I heard in the store, it showed promise. It has the new class D3 amplification from Pioneer, not the usual licensed B&O ICE power. This technology was developed in conjunction with AIR studios in England, where the goal was to develop a world-class digital amplifier. Interestingly, the D3 amplification is available only in the top two models of the PIONEER ELITE. PIONEER is developing the D3 as their "flagship" amplification technology. And believe me, they do sound very, very good.



D³ AMPLIFIER

ELITE

BY PIONEER

SC-57

After working with the ELITE SC-57, it wasn't just the new D3 amps that made the difference. It was Pioneer's proprietary MCACC calibration software. The MCACC was used to match all the speakers to a single sonic signature. This is the most extensive and powerful calibration system I've ever experienced.

With all these unrelated speakers, the calibration is far beyond the usual distance and level setting. Not only does it have room correction, it has an advanced phase control. Now all the speakers are in phase, all the drivers within each speaker enclosure are time-aligned. Accordingly, all the speaker wave fronts arrive at the same time. The resulting sound field is enveloping and it's more precise than I've anything I've ever heard.

There are three areas where the ELITE SC-57 outperforms all other theater processors I've used: First is calibration and the resulting sound field it produces.

Second is the phase control, which profoundly affected my center speaker. Now the center is much more articulate, without any artifacts. Voices sound so much clearer, more accurate and true to life than I've ever heard before, and that is definitely part of the MCACC calibration. It's almost a revelation.

And the last thing, but certainly not to be overlooked by any subwoofer owner, is the slam factor. Even with a Revel B-250 and JL Audio f1 13, there wasn't performance that I could even remotely consider as "devastating bass". That combo should slam, yet it never had real impact. Believe me, I'd moved them around, re-run the Audyssey Pro calibration and tweaked them, but with little real improvement. After calibrating with the ELITE SC-57's MCACC, it put my theater room in "lock down".

Pioneer SC-57
9.1 Channel -140 x 9 - 3 Zone
\$2,100.00



Bass is now tight and precise, and put a grip on the room that never let up. So you're getting maximum acoustic output, perfectly generated from the main and subs. It's what I've been missing.

Overall I couldn't be more satisfied. Yes, its got an android app, and dozens of streaming capabilities... but it's the sonics that won me over, not the wiz bang features. Overall it's a marked improvement over my older separates. And I'm saying this about a receiver.! I never thought I'd see the day, where a receiver would replace my separates. That speaks volumes about the ELITE SC-57.

The ELITE SC-57 has been replaced with the new flagship, the SC-68.
Loren Wood., Genesis Audio Ltd. Audio-Video consultant

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