

**stereoplay**

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Tests & Technology  
Headphones

**stereoplay**  
**Referenz**



# Outstanding performance

The new Ultrason Edition 8 – it not only looks great, but also provides outstanding sound quality.

Test: Dalibor Beric Photos: Julian Bauer



## stereoplay Referenz

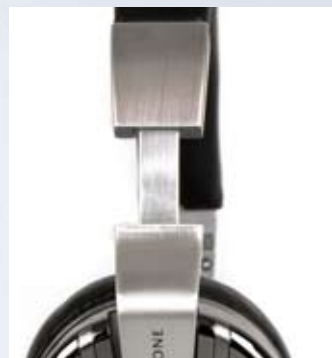
Most developers are utterly and deeply convinced of the efficiency of their creations – and it would probably be just a little strange if they were not. However, some developers – such as Ultrasonic’s chief technical officer Florian König – take their work that little bit more serious still and become advocacies of their own special missions. In this case, the mission in question: König’s ambition to share with the wider world his enthusiasm about the new Ultrasonic Edition 8 headphones.

This refers in particular to their patented S-Logic technology. Following extensive research, this technology was developed in response to König’s conclusion that using measurement microphone-derived smooth frequency responses to avoid the undesirable in-head-localization associated with headphones is counterproductive and also requires taking into account the properties of the outer ear. However, the Ultrasonic’s have yet one other rather peculiar feature, and that is that of having their sound transducers fitted not over the centre of the ear – as in conventional headphones – but slightly off-centre and a little lower. This strategy is intended to provide Ultrasonic users with a unique sound experience that is equal to sitting right in front of a set of speakers.

Another special feature of the Ultrasones’ is their MuMe-

tal shielding which, according to König, reduces the Ultrasones’ electromagnetic emissions to a tenth of that of unshielded headphones and thus makes them much less likely to cause tiredness and impact on human health in the way he believes unshielded headphones do. However, this is far from where Ultrasonic’s efforts to increase user safety stops, as the Ultrasonic Edition 8s’ are also fitted with 40 millimetre drivers. Together with a strong Neodym magnet, these high-purity copper coils drive the low resonance Mylar membrane, which – to increase its rigidity – has been covered with titanium.

The Ultrasonic Edition 8 headphones – which are manufactured in Tutzing am Starnberger See, in Germany – feature the same sealed designs as their predecessor (Edition 9, 1/07). This makes them of particular appeal to everybody



The frame bars of the Edition 8 – solid aluminium – offset by the soft sheepskin covered padding for maximum comfort.

who is not inclined to sharing his/her music with those around them and who in turn appreciate being shielded from any external noises.

In keeping with the Ultrasonic Edition 8’s overall specifications, it is also extremely comfortable, quite light and, thanks to its low impedance, perfectly suited for use with mobile devices that have low output voltages, such as Apple iPods, and a range of other devices. Our tests also showed that, although the Edition 8 does not quite match the deep bass sound of the Edition 9, which only impacted marginally on the power of “Saints” by Gravenhurst (The Western Lands“, Warp/RTD Warp 157), it’s superior performance did make Nick Talbot’s guitar and voice sound more clearly and forceful still.

This experience was repeated when using the Edition 8 with a Grado RA 1 (3/02) headphone amplifier, which again highlighted the contrast between the more powerful Edition 9 and the more subtle sounds picked up on by the Edition 8. The final Edition 8 test, using an open Sennheiser HD 800 (4/08), evened the scores, since the Edition 8 was not quite able to match the wide-ranging sound replication of the HD 800, but compensated with the immediacy of and clarity of its response. These features clearly make the Edition 8 a new benchmark for sealed headphones. ■

### Ultrasonic Edition 8 1200 Euro (RRP)

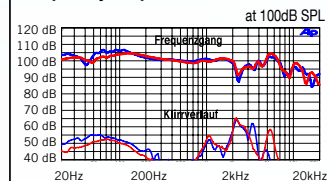
Distribution: Ultrasonic, Tutzing  
Telephone: +49 (0) 8158/90780  
www.ultrasonic.com

Please see website for information on foreign representatives

Weight: 269 g without cable

#### Measured data

#### Frequency response and distortion



Balanced sound and prominent bass; minor presence dip with slightly higher distortion

Sound level 0,1-4kHz, 1mW/32Ω 97 dB  
Impedance at 1 kHz 30,2 Ω

#### Test results

Sound (max. 70 pts)	53
Measured data	8
Performance	9
Value for money	10

The Ultrasonic Edition 8 is an extremely high-quality set of sealed headphones that are also suited for use with mobile devices. The Edition 8 has an excellent sound quality, includes a rich variety of acoustic details and is extremely responsive.

#### stereoplay test result

Sound	
High end	53 points
Overall result	
Excellent	80 points
Price/performance	Excellent