

**SONY**  
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Because You Care  
About Music™

SS-AR1 and SS-AR2 Loudspeakers





## We invite you to audition the SS-AR Series Loudspeakers

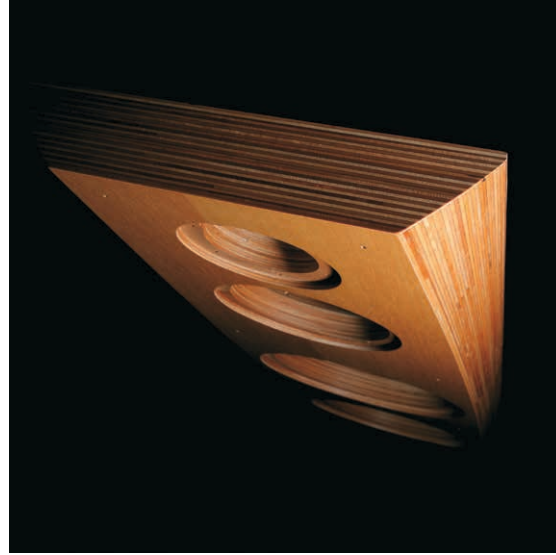
You know the sense of anticipation before a live performance, the feeling of entering a great concert hall, and the catch of your breath as the performance begins. You also know the pleasure of carefully, deliberately selecting an outstanding recording; then listening to it with complete attention.

Sony knows this as well. The same passion for music motivated us to create the SS-AR1 and AR2 Loudspeakers. We developed the SS-AR Series to recreate, as faithfully as possible, your favorite music – just as it was originally recorded.

So take a moment to discover why the SS-AR Series is being embraced by enthusiasts and professionals alike. These loudspeakers will immediately remind you of why you care so much about music.







## The wood behind the sound

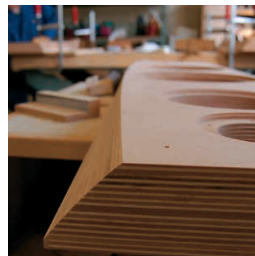
Like priceless pianos, the SS-AR1 and AR2 loudspeakers are chiefly crafted out of wood. And like any rare instrument, their sound quality is inextricably linked to a unique combination of materials.

The wood for the baffle board comes from Japan's island of Hokkaido. Winters are extremely cold, a condition reflected in the tight grain, hardness and rigidity of the indigenous maple. With the assistance of local wood specialists, Sony hand-selected raw maple logs from Hokkaido's forests. The trees are felled in November, when their growth slows and the grain is at its tightest. Then the maple is laminated to a thickness of 50 mm for the AR1, 40 mm for the AR2.

However, building the entire enclosure from a single type of wood can result in an excessively rigid and hard sound. For this reason, we selected another, somewhat softer cold-climate wood, Scandinavian birch, for the speaker's side and rear panels. The birch is laminated and compressed to a thickness of 32 mm for the AR1, 24 mm for the AR2. The panels are then curved to a sculptural shape.

This unique choice of woods insures exceptional freedom from unwanted vibrations, as well as a natural, balanced, musically expressive tone.

You'll remember the density of these woods every time you move the loudspeakers. Although these are not giants, the SS-AR1 weighs 126 pounds while the SS-AR2 weighs an impressive 84 pounds.



The Sonoma™ multi-track DSD recording system used by Gus Skinas has served as the foundation for numerous SACD releases.

*"The AR1 brings high resolution music home... They're very impressive."*

**Gus Skinas**

The heart of every Super Audio Compact Disc (SACD) is its one-bit Direct Stream Digital® (DSD) technology. And from the format's inception, the point man on DSD recording has been Gus Skinas, who has worked on countless SACD releases.

His credits include reissues of nearly two dozen Rolling Stones titles, plus numerous classics from Nat King Cole to Pink Floyd, Aerosmith, Sheryl Crow and George Harrison. Skinas is the driving force behind today's premiere DSD recording system, the Sonoma™ multi-track workstation.

"Once a recording artist experiences high resolution audio, they can't go back," says Skinas. "The SS-AR1 brings this high resolution music home. I've listened to some great recordings on the AR1 and they're very impressive."



*"Brings new life to music  
I know intimately."*

*Cookie Marengo*

As a former A&R executive for Windham Hill Records and an award-winning recording engineer, Cookie Marengo has worked with the likes of Mary Chapin Carpenter, Max Roach and hundreds of other artists. Nearly a decade ago, she sought to take multi-channel sound to the next level by developing the acclaimed Extended Sound Environment (ESE) surround sound miking system. This proprietary recording technique has been used to produce a series of exceptional titles for Cookie's own Blue Coast Records.

"You must hear these speakers to believe the incredible detail in dynamics and frequency range," said Marengo. "My recordings sounded fresh and vital, bringing new life to this music I know intimately."



## Built like the musical instruments they are

The dimensions of a speaker cabinet are rarely perfect. For easier assembly, designers typically make a slight allowance for error. This can leave loose joints that are usually filled with glue. The result is an acceptable, if ever-so slightly imperfect cabinet.

For the SS-AR Series, Sony demanded nothing less than the highest possible accuracy in woodworking. So our engineers reached out to a cabinet-making company that provides precision components for musical instruments. As an exploratory exercise, we asked them to build a prototype but to leave the pieces unglued for our inspection.

When the Sony project leader visited their workshop, he found a completely assembled cabinet and demanded an explanation. His host simply smiled as a workman with a rubber mallet disassembled the cabinet in a few seconds. The prototype was so precise, all of the pieces held tightly together without any glue at all.

In addition to meticulous accuracy, this cabinetmaker is also responsible for the exquisite, deep piano finish. But you'd expect no less from craftsmen who help build grand pianos.

Cookie Marengo's Blue Coast Records captures multi-channel music with sonic precision.







## Different by design

A loudspeaker's timbre is largely determined by the sound pressure that radiates from the front of its drivers. However, sound pressure that radiates back into the cabinet from the woofer can produce unwanted resonance, which may interfere with the movement of the midrange and tweeter. The location, size and shape of the bass reflex port can also add distortion and coloration.

To combat this, the SS-AR1 and SR2 incorporate a unique design that helps to control resonance and maintain a balanced, natural sound. What appears from the outside to be a single enclosure is actually divided inside by two thick pieces of birch separated by an air cavity. This creates two separate enclosures: one for the woofers and one for the midrange/tweeter. Each sub-enclosure is also vented with a bass reflex port that's been carefully tuned and positioned.

From your listening chair, you can't see any of these extraordinary measures. But you can certainly hear them.



*"Every time we listened, I had a greater level of appreciation."*

*Ray Kimber*

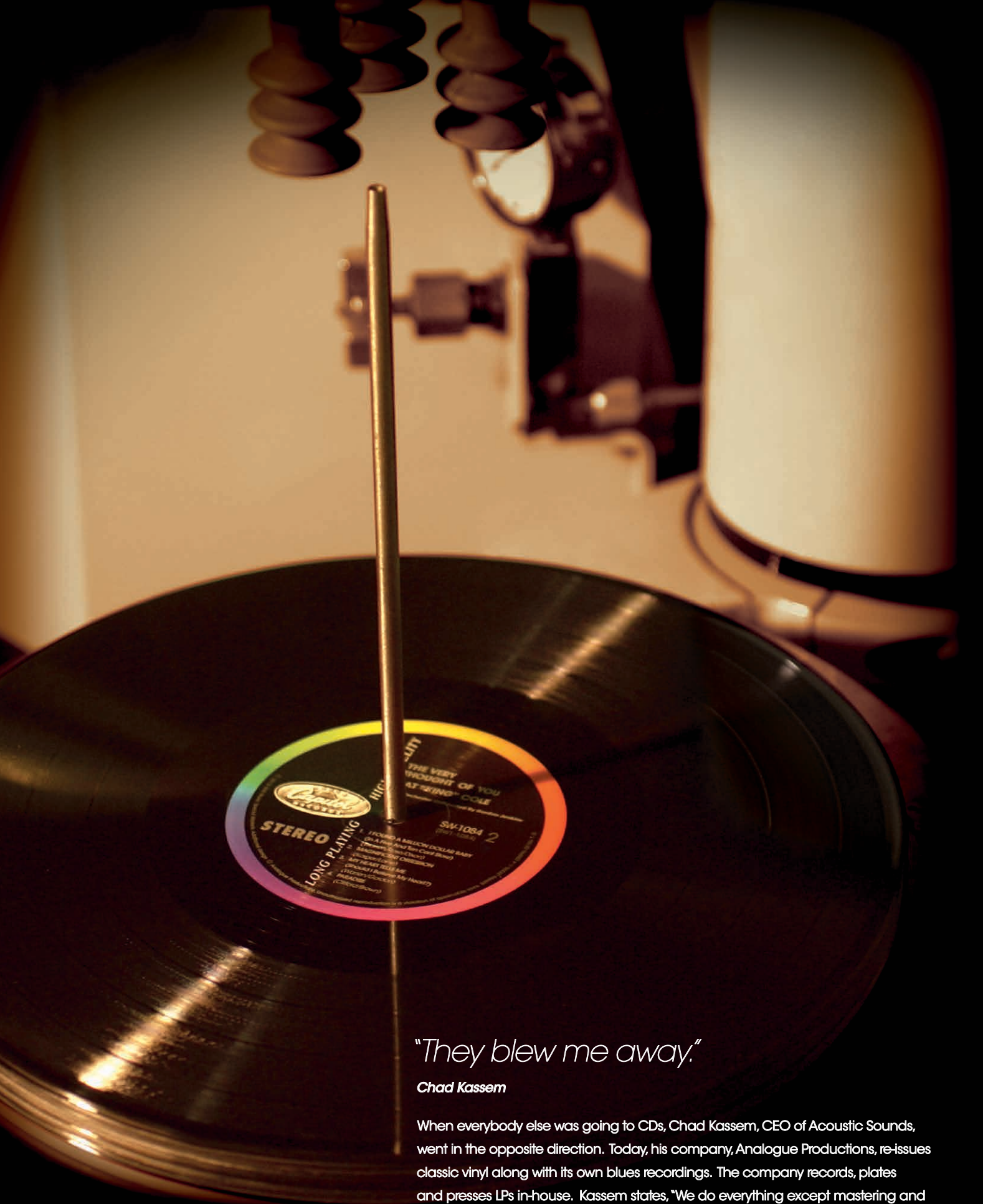
More than three decades ago, Ray Kimber started braiding audio cables to prevent strobe lights from causing interference with commercial sound installations. He never looked back. Today, Kimber Kable is famous for their reproduction quality and Ray's IsoMike record label is a showcase for his unique four-channel microphone technique.

"We put on our music and every time we listened to the AR1's, I had a greater level of appreciation," Kimber stated. "They reproduced every nuance from the original recording session. We've used them in our recording studios and shipped them to trade shows everywhere. We've even turned up the volume to the limits of insanity and they do everything we ask."



Ray Kimber's IsoMike surround sound recording technique uses four microphones isolated by egg- and heart-shaped acoustic baffles.





*"They blew me away."*

**Chad Kassem**

When everybody else was going to CDs, Chad Kassem, CEO of Acoustic Sounds, went in the opposite direction. Today, his company, Analogue Productions, re-issues classic vinyl along with its own blues recordings. The company records, plates and presses LPs in-house. Kassem states, "We do everything except mastering and printing jackets."

"At the Rocky Mountain Audio Fest," remembers Kassem, "I brought some of my own records and asked Ray Kimber to let me listen to them on a pair of speakers. Afterwards, Ray said, 'You have to hear the Sonys.' I told him I had wasted enough of his time. He said, 'You really have to hear the Sonys.' After he insisted a third time, I sat down for a listen. They blew me away. Wow. I was impressed."

Chad Kassem's Analogue Productions has in-house facilities to record, plate and press vinyl.



## Drivers that deliver precision performance

Fabricating precision drivers for the SS-AR Series required particular expertise. So the Sony team reached out to a transducer specialist in Scandinavia. Working in close collaboration, they produced a four-unit/three-way system that exceeded our own high expectations.

The twin aluminum woofers are remarkably strong, with a robust magnetic circuit. A copper ring optimizes the symmetry of the magnetic field, reducing distortion. Aluminum diaphragms, a rigid enclosure and a common port on the rear panel help generate bass response with power, authority and clarity. The SS-AR1 employs a pair of 200 mm woofers while the AR2 uses two 165 mm units.

The 130 mm midrange driver incorporates an exclusive sliced paper cone. The material is deliberately cut and re-adhered to suppress resonance and realize flat response. A copper ring in the magnetic circuit reduces distortion further.

The 25 mm soft dome tweeter includes a special back chamber, which smooths out the air pressure behind the diaphragm and around the magnetic circuit. Six neodymium magnets arranged concentrically also produce high flux density in minimal space. Plus, a distinctive diaphragm adhesion and edge integration method help extend frequency response to 60 kHz.

All of this results in a more realistic soundfield, helping music achieve an almost life-like presence.





SS-AR1



SS-AR2

Specifications

<b>System:</b>	4-unit, 3-way, floor-standing vented box speaker system	4-unit, 3-way, floor-standing vented box speaker system
<b>Drivers:</b>	25 mm (1 inch) soft dome 130 mm (5 inch) sliced-paper cone Twin 200 mm (8 inch) aluminum cones	25 mm (1 inch) soft dome 130 mm (5 inch) sliced-paper cone Twin 165 mm (6½ inch) aluminum cones
<b>Frequency Response:</b>	28 Hz to 60 kHz	42 Hz to 60 kHz
<b>Crossover Frequency:</b>	400 Hz, 4 kHz multi-slope network	400 Hz, 4 kHz multi-slope network
<b>Sensitivity:</b>	88 dB (2.83 V/m)	89 dB (2.83 V/m)
<b>Nominal Impedance:</b>	4 ohms	4 ohms
<b>Maximum Input Power:</b>	200 W	100 W
<b>Dimensions (WxHxD):</b>	Excluding projecting parts 12 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 41 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> x 17 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> inches (320 x 1055 x 450 mm)	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> X 37 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> X 14 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> inches (280 x 955 x 375 mm)
	Including projecting parts 12 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 42 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 19 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> inches (320 x 1080 x 490 mm)	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> X 38 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> X 16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> inches (280 x 980 x 410 mm)
<b>Weight:</b>	126 lbs. (57 kg)	84 lbs. (38 kg)
<b>Supplied Accessories:</b>	Speaker grills (2) Cleaning cloth	Speaker grills (2) Cleaning cloth

We invite you to audition the Sony® SS-AR1  
loudspeakers at the following dealers:

**Krystal Clear Audio-Video**  
Dallas, TX

**Music Lovers**  
Berkeley, CA

**Holm Audio**  
Woodridge, IL

**David Lewis Audio**  
Philadelphia, PA

**Goodwin's High End**  
Waltham, MA

**hifi Hawaii**  
Honolulu, HI

**Definition Audio Video**  
Santa Monica, CA

**AVWORX**  
Layton, UT

**Dynamic Sound System**  
Carlsbad, CA