

Q & A

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



SC-001

SONIC CLEANING BRUSH

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The DS Audio SC-001 is the world's first sonic-vibration record cleaning brush. The bristles themselves vibrate at high speed, reaching deep into the record groove to physically lift and remove fine dust particles. This document answers the questions we most frequently receive from customers, dealers, and reviewers about the SC-001, in Q&A form.

Music begins before the needle drops.

Questions & Answers

Q 01

What is the SC-001?

The SC-001 is the world's first record cleaning brush that uses sonic vibration. Unlike conventional brushes that simply sweep the surface, the bristles themselves vibrate at approximately 11,000 cycles per minute (183 Hz), reaching into the groove and physically lifting away dust. This is sonic-range vibration — not ultrasonic.

Q 02

Why did you develop this brush?

Until now, the record cleaning market has been divided into two extremes: simple brushes costing around ten dollars, and expensive ultrasonic cleaning machines. We saw a clear gap between the two — a product more effective than a simple brush, yet vastly easier to use than an ultrasonic machine. That is where we believed the real need lay, and where we began development.

By analogy, a simple brush is a manual toothbrush. Many people today use electric toothbrushes — because they clean more thoroughly. Record cleaning, too, needed its own “electric toothbrush.” That was the idea from which the SC-001 was born.

Q 03

What powers the SC-001 and how long do the batteries last?

The SC-001 runs on two AAA batteries. With approximately 5 seconds of cleaning per side, one set of batteries will clean approximately 3,000 record sides.

Q 04

Is the brush head replaceable?

Yes. Replacement brushes are sold separately and can be installed by the user.

Q 05

How do I care for the brush head?

A small maintenance brush is included with the SC-001 for this purpose. After use, gently sweep away any dust caught in the bristles with the included brush. Never use alcohol, thinner, or any other solvent, and do not use record cleaning fluids — these will degrade the bristles and reduce cleaning performance. Also avoid washing with water.

Q 06

When should I replace the brush head?

Brush life varies significantly with usage conditions (record cleanliness, storage environment, and frequency of use). For that reason, we are unable to specify a fixed replacement period. Please use any of the following as an indication that replacement is due:

- Bristles are visibly worn and shorter than their original length
- Bristles are bent and do not return to their original shape
- Dust remains on the record after cleaning
- The included maintenance brush no longer removes residue from the bristles

Under normal use, the brush is designed to last for years. Replacement brushes are sold separately through your local DS Audio dealer.

Q 07

How does the antistatic function work?

The SC-001 addresses static through a two-stage approach that requires no ground wire. First, the bristle material was chosen for low charge generation — a material positioned close to PVC (the record material) on the triboelectric series. This means that when the brush contacts the record, very little electron transfer occurs, so static is largely prevented from arising in the first place. Second, conductive fibers behind the brush head collect static already present on the record; by keeping a finger on the ground bar on the rear of the unit while cleaning, this charge is discharged safely through your body. This two-stage approach delivers antistatic performance far beyond that of conventional antistatic brushes.

Q 08

How was the brush material selected?

The bristle material was selected through measurement, not by feel. Using a high-sensitivity camera, we visualized dust on record surfaces and quantitatively analyzed the residue before and after cleaning. We compared multiple candidate materials and selected only the one that demonstrated the highest dust removal rate. This measurement-based selection is the basis for the brush's performance.

Q 09

Does the vibration risk damaging the record?

No. The bristles are soft, and the brush is intended to touch the record surface only lightly. The vibration amplitude is extremely small — the motion lifts dust free rather than abrading the groove. In practice, the load applied to the record surface is smaller than that of manually wiping with a cloth.

Q 10

The unit doesn't work, or the vibration feels weak. What should I do?

Note that the SC-001 vibrates only while the power button is held down. If the unit still does not respond, check the battery status: while the power button is pressed, the LED on the brush head lights green. If it turns red or flashes red, the batteries are low — replace them with two new AAA batteries.

If the LED does not light at all, check that the batteries are inserted with the correct polarity. If the issue persists, please contact your dealer or your local DS Audio distributor.

Q 11

How does the SC-001 differ from the ION-001? Should I use both?

The ION-001 and the SC-001 address different problems.

The ION-001 is a dedicated static-elimination device. It neutralizes negative charge on the record surface, preventing static-driven dust attraction. It also continues to eliminate static that develops on both the cartridge and the record surface during playback — addressing the pops and crackles caused by static as they occur.

The SC-001, by contrast, is an active cleaning device that physically removes dust from the record surface. However, because the SC-001 cannot touch the record during playback, it cannot address static that develops during playback.

The two are complementary, and we recommend using them together. Many customers incorporate both the ION-001 and the SC-001 into their analog playback routine.

If you are starting with one, we suggest the SC-001 for surface dust, or the ION-001 for pops and crackles caused by static during playback.

Q 12

What is the price, release date, and where can I buy it?

The SC-001 will be released in August 2026 through the DS Audio dealer network. Suggested retail price is approximately US\$1,200. Final pricing varies by region according to local VAT and other taxes.

C O N T A C T

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