When skill and passion work together, expect a masterpiece.
40 years of dedicated passion, Ken Ishiwata celebrates ruby anniversary with Marantz.

Ken Ishiwata has been at the heart of Marantz for 40 years, but his influence extends beyond the many wonderful products he has developed for the company in that time. Today he is perhaps the most recognised and influential figure in the world of high-end audio, with an avid global following among the hi-fi press and discerning consumers for his ability to design and tune products that simply bring listeners closer than ever to the music.

He has a unique ability to conceptualise stunning sound reproduction, design the equipment required to achieve it, and then deliver enthralling demonstrations around the world leaving listeners spellbound with the new insights Marantz products can deliver into even the most familiar music. With his awareness of the company’s 65+-year heritage, he is totally involved with all newly-designed Marantz units, and works with highly talented engineers, introducing new models to the world for music-lovers to enjoy.

Refining the harmony

In exploring and examining every aspect of every design, just occasionally he finds a product with extra potential, which he can then take beyond the Marantz standard he sets and into something even more special. On those rare occasions he puts even more of his experience and expertise into the project, creating a ‘what if…?’ model embodying even more of the Ishiwata sound by improving sound-critical components through a process of careful selection and subtle blending, testing, listening and testing again. Thus is a KI Signature product born, in a process akin to creating fine music: as Ishiwata says, ‘Like any musical performance, all the players must understand and be capable of fulfilling their role. Nothing more. Nothing less.’

Signature pieces

The KI Ruby DAC player and amplifier go beyond even the standards of past KI Signature achievements, embodying all of Ken Ishiwata’s experience and expertise, and that of the Marantz engineering team. Since the original CD63 Mini KI Signature CD player was launched more than 20 years ago, the knowledge of how to make a fine-sounding product truly magical has grown with each new KI Signature launch – in the KI Ruby models, launched to mark Ken Ishiwata’s 40th anniversary with the company, that process has created products as special as they are covetable.

If you want to discover exactly how Ken Ishiwata likes great music to sound, look no further – and prepare to be amazed.

**BECAUSE MUSIC MATTERS** - And value remains.

“Music is the highest form of art. It is also the most noble. It is human emotion, captured, crystallised, encased … and then passed on to others.”

Ken Ishiwata, Marantz Brand Ambassador
Marantz has been designing and making amplifiers for more than 65 years, and for 40 of those the products have reflected expertise of Ken Ishiwata. Now, to mark his four decades with the company, the PM-KI Ruby amplifier has been developed and tuned by a highly experienced engineering team led by KI himself. And it arrives bearing Ken Ishiwata’s signature and a special Ruby motif.

The PM-KI Ruby is built with just one aim – audio performance – which is why it uses a fully discrete two-stage design with separate power supplies for the preamplifier and power amp section, and draws on the design of the flagship PM-10 amplifier with its moving coil/moving magnet phono stage complete with Marantz Musical Premium Phono EQ circuit, and Marantz HDAM technology throughout for signal purity.

The circuitry offers the cleanest signal path through amplifier, which delivers 100W per channel into 8ohm speakers, or 200V into 8ohms (4 ohm), and there are high-quality nickel-plated input terminals, and high-purity copper speaker connections. It’s all built on a vibration-resistant double layer chassis, with thick aluminium pans for rigidity and a laser-etched Ken Ishiwata signature to set this apart as a very special amplifier.

Extensive and painstaking tuning has long been the secret of fine-sounding Marantz amplifiers, and for the PM-KI Ruby Ken Ishiwata and the Marantz engineering team used all their experience and expertise, both in the design of the amplifier and in the long listening sessions involved in finalising the sound. As you would expect for a product marking a 40-year career, the PM-KI Ruby is a real cause for celebration, and a fine embodiment of the Marantz ethos – ‘Because music matters’.

At a glance

• Engineered and extensively tuned by a team led by Ken Ishiwata, drawing on more than 65 years of Marantz amplifier design knowledge
• Marantz high-resolution preamplifier stage using proprietary HDAM technology
• Switching power amplifier design derived from flagship PM-10 amplifier
• Generous output: 100W + 100W (8 ohm), 200W + 200W (4 ohm)
• Fully discrete two-stage design for signal purity, with separate power supplies for preamp and power amplifier sections to reduce interference
• Toroidal transformer dedicated to preamp for clarity and precision sound
• Current feedback design with newly-developed wide-range circuitry
• HDAM® SA3 circuitry for clean signal and optimal dynamics
• MM/MC Phono input with new discrete Marantz Musical Premium Phono EQ circuit
• Thick nickel plated independent input terminals for CD and Phono, plus Marantz original high-quality/high-purity copper speaker terminals
• Linear volume control with new electric volume system
• High-quality construction with double-layer chassis, 5mm thick aluminium top lid, solid aluminium front and copper plated chassis
• Laser-engraved Ken Ishiwata’s signature and Ruby motif, marking Ken Ishiwata’s 40 years with Marantz.

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Marantz was in at the start of CD, launching its first player – the original CD-63 – in 1982. By then, Ken Ishiwata had been with the company for four years, and was to play a major role in the development of Marantz players from the start. But he went further than that: early on he realised that there was scope for highly-tuned versions of the company’s players, and thus was born the trend of Limited Edition, Special Edition and, latterly Ken Ishiwata Signature models, all designed to take the exceptional CD performance of Marantz models to the ultimate level.

Of these, perhaps the best-known is the classic CD63/KI Signature, which Ishiwata describes as ‘still one of the most musical CD players we’ve produced.’ Now there’s a new classic, engineered and extensively tuned by a team led by Ken Ishiwata, drawing on more than 35 years of Marantz expertise in CD players. In house-developed SACD/CD mechanism “SACDM-3”, designed purely for audio.

SA-CD playback, and playback of compilations on CD-ROM and DVD-ROM. It also has an asynchronous USB input, able to handle formats all the way up to PCM / DXD 384kHz/32bit and DSD11.2MHz, and handles all digital music with a unique Marantz Musical Mastering technology.

By upconverting all file formats to DSD, using advanced filtering and processing, then using innovative Marantz Musical Mastering ‘MMM-Stream’ upsampling to DSD and filtering. Custom-designed 1-bit direct ‘MMM – Conversion’ from DSD to analogue.

New analogue output stage with Marantz HDAM-SA3 and HDAM-S3 technology and low impedance output.

Power supply using toroidal transformer

Dedicated headphone amplifier with all-discrete construction featuring HDAM-SA3

Engineered ‘Ken Ishiwata’ signature and Ruby motif, marking Ken Ishiwata’s 40 years with Marantz.

Marantz has created this player not just to mark Ishiwata’s 40th anniversary, but also to deliver the kind of sound able to bring you closer than ever to your favourite music. The Marantz engineering team has created this player not just to mark Ishiwata’s 40th anniversary, but also to deliver the kind of sound able to bring you closer than ever to your favourite music. The

**Features**

- Engineered and extensively tuned by a team led by Ken Ishiwata, drawing on more than 35 years of Marantz expertise in CD players
- In house-developed SACD/CD mechanism “SACDM-3”, designed purely for audio
- SACD/CD playback, and playback of compilations on CD-ROM and DVD-ROM
- Asynchronous USB input for h.i.res audio up to PCM / DXD 384kHz/32bit and DSD11.2MHz
- Isolation of USB and digital inputs to block noise from internal and external sources
- Innovative Marantz Musical Mastering ‘MMM-Stream’ upsampling to DSD and filtering
- Custom-designed 1-bit direct ‘MMM – Conversion’ from DSD to analogue
- New analogue output stage with Marantz HDAM-SA3 and HDAM-S3 technology and low impedance output
- Power supply using toroidal transformer
- Dedicated headphone amplifier with all-discrete construction featuring HDAM-SA3
- Laser-engraved ‘Ken Ishiwata’ signature and Ruby motif, marking Ken Ishiwata’s 40 years with Marantz.
Availability of models may vary from country to country. Marantz reserves the right to change the design and specification due to a policy of continuous product improvements without notice.

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