

Q&A [L-595ASE]

Q. How did the Luxman team come up with this product idea for the 95th anniversary?

A. It was Tatsuya's idea; this model was very popular when he joined the company. He wanted to change the look as it's a commemorative model to celebrate our 95th anniversary.

Q. Why does LINE 1 have optically more valuable sockets than the other inputs?

A. Copper alloy terminals take up more space. If we use two or more pairs, we wouldn't be able to fit all of them on the rear panel and costs would increase.

Q. What were the most exciting challenges in the sonic development of the L-595ASE?

A. When I heard the very first prototype, the sound was too bright and powerful. It was a challenge to keep the power but tone down the brightness. This process was enjoyable. We paid careful attention to response time and spatial expression.

Q. How many components does an L-595ASE consist of and what percentage of them had to be completely newly developed and manufactured?

A. We have developed 120 new components. As far as up-to-date technologies go, it's equipped with ODNF-u, which was developed for D-10X, and the latest, improved technologies from the P-750u.

Q. I know of very few companies that make such an effort for a run of only 600 shipped units worldwide. Other brands simply change the color or install slightly better components for a special series. The L-595 is a limited model, which is manufactured with enormous effort and so much attention to design details from past years. Luxman takes a very elaborate approach here. Why put in this effort?

A. We didn't take the 95th anniversary lightly, the 100th anniversary will see even more serious effort. If possible, we had hoped to develop a series based on the L-595AL, but we rely on hand-crafted structural components which take time to produce, as you are aware. If we don't have to strictly rely on those, and if the necessary components are available at lower price points, then a new series may become possible.

Audio products are not simply utility goods or household appliances, they are culturally relevant industrial products. Therefore, rather than being evaluated just on sound quality, they need to appeal to all the senses, pleasing to the eyes and the sense of touch.

We all hope our customers will enjoy their products for a long time.

Q. Compare the sound of the L-595ASE to the L-590AXII, what's the biggest difference?

A. L-590AXII is mid-placed, as far as sound quality within Luxman products. It's class A, but has both response and density. L-509X is class AB but has scale, response and detail. L-595ASE has a strong body feel and powerfulness, but almost sounds like a tube product when it comes to brightness of tonal quality. It's the same class A amp as the L-590AXII, but the expression is completely different.

As far as technologies, our ODNF-u contributes to the level sound quality. Recently adopted custom components (electrolytic capacitors etc) and shielding have reduced noise and made the sound more dense.

Q. What do customers think of the look of 595 without VU meters?

It's well received. Nobody has complained about the look of 595 just because VU meters are missing.

Q&A 【LMC-5】

Q. Who is the manufacturer?

A. By repeating a number of trials with a long-established cartridge manufacturer, we ourselves created an original cartridge that combines a conventional engine and an original body shape.

Q. Why did Luxman decide to use the SHIBATA needle?

A. The SHIBATA needle has less audible noise while delivering full range vinyl reading.

Q. Why is it an open design?

A. It's more like a semi-open body structure. From our experiences with closed body designs, the coil and cantilever can act like a microphone, picking up reflected sound, therefore less enclosure, less sound coloration.

I realized that a box structure is like putting a microphone in a tunnel.

From our studies, when customers drop a needle on the record, sometimes they miss the outer edge and it hits the side of the platter and causes damage. This is why we put a protective wall next to the cantilever, but of course we did a lot of prototyping, to the point where the protective walls do not affect sound quality.

Q. Why did Luxman choose aluminum for the cantilever material?

A. We tried different materials but they all had an accentuated, hi-fi sound quality rather than remaining unaffected and neutral, so different from what we are aiming for. In order to retain purity and presence, we aimed for the sincere, neutral sound quality of aluminum.

Q. What adhesive is used?

A. Needle tip : press fitting + adhesive (epoxy resin AW-206/HV953U)

The aluminum cantilever can be press fitted therefore only a small amount of adhesive is used.

When using a boron cantilever, the needle can simply be glued, but our concern was that when using IPA type cleaning solution, the needle may detach.

Base and engine: Two-component araldite (epoxy)

They are held in place by screws and epoxy.

Q. Why did Luxman choose red as the body color?

A. The choice was either red or samurai blue, but Tatsu and sales team chose red. Red is our corporate color, LUXMAN's bright LUX logo is on every unit, so maybe that's why they chose bright red.

Q. Tell us the story behind the stylus' development?

A. The first version had a a box structure, but the sound quality was terrible, so we changed to a method of evaluating the only the power generation engine.

The sound quality of the engine alone was excellent. After that, we repeated experiments with different engine components and moved onto the next step. I designed a semi-open body, but the sound quality wasn't good.

From that point on, it was difficult to identify where the body was vibrating. I came up with ideas every night and continued to experiment the next day. Unlike an amplifier, it was very difficult to control the sound quality of a cartridge in the desired direction. The change in body sound quality was more dominant than the power generation engine. It was found that when damping materials were attached to the body, the mass affected the sound quality. It was also interesting that if damping material was used asymmetrically, left and right outputs had phase problems and the sound would be unpleasant.

The resulting body was pared down to create the optimum shape.

I used an inverted egg-shaped curve for the protective wall of the stylus unit and I was glad when I found out that it didn't adversely affect sound quality.