

LOUDSPEAKER POLARITIES

Referring to "Mixer's" mention in Sidebands (January issue) of the Sheffield record sleeve, the inexplicable note suggesting reversal of polarities of *both* playback speakers may have a sound reason running directly along the lines of "Mixer's" thinking. In my

research into fidelity and imaging of stereo systems I have noted audible differences between normal and reversed polarity. It seems that for impulsive sounds the ear *prefers* a negative pressure impulse. This has been noted by Madsen and Hansen¹, and perhaps is the basis for Sheffield's note, although polarity in multi-way speakers is often not constant. So "Mixer" is half right, but the idea is to have the speakers suck when the drum goes bang.

Mark Logies

Master I Systems

· *Eastlake,*

· *Ohio, USA*

Reference

1. "On aural phase detection," by Villy Hansen and Erik Rorbaek Madsen, *J. Audio Eng. Soc.*, vol. 22, No. 1 (1974).

"Mixer" replies: Well, I must say it's very nice to be told that one is even half-right, sometimes. But, if the reason for Sheffield's sleeve note is to be discovered, maybe they should be asked – it does save such a lot of theorizing.