



PRESS RELEASE
for immediate attention
February 2016

Press contact: David Denyer
07976 646 404
david@ddpr.co.uk

Computer Audio Design unveils 1543 MKII DAC



The world's finest dedicated USB digital-to-analogue convertor has been upgraded. Computer Audio Design has announced a refit to its unique CAD 1543 DAC, now using proprietary EMI/RFI reduction materials, improved DAC circuit boards, single-crystal UP-OCC internal wiring and refined power supply filtering, to create the CAD 1543 MKII DAC.

It retains the key technologies that contribute to a performance lifted far above normal expectations for digital audio, leading with the innovative use of prized vintage resistor-ladder DAC chipsets, and the daring removal of the standard digital interpolation filter.

CAD is one of a handful of digital audio companies offering resistor-ladder DAC technology, along with no oversampling and no filtering, which CAD believes offers a distinctively different sound than most digital audio products on the market today – a sound that is tangibly closer to the original performance.

DACs and ladders

The CAD 1543 MKII DAC takes its name from the application of an increasingly rare resistor-ladder convertor chip, the Philips TDA1543/N2, with its selected 16 devices now mounted on a revised four-layer circuit board. This new layout minimises intrinsic noise, optimising the chips' specifications to now allow native conversion of 192 kHz PCM audio.

And where almost all conventional modern D-A convertors employ over-sampling techniques and a digital interpolation filter, the CAD DAC unashamedly adopts the non-oversampling (NOS) approach in order to protect precious timing resolution. With no filter to ring and smear the fundamental timing of impulsive data – the shape of natural music – the 1543 MKII brings to life both the subtle and macro dynamics of recorded sound.

The result is a total tonic to the usual time-deaf sound of digital, restoring the open and boundless soundstage of the finest analogues sources from reel-to-reel tape and vinyl replay.

When less is more

The hyper-minimalist design is engineered with the fewest number of switches and connectors between mains plug and output sockets. It features a single USB 2.0 input that galvanically isolates the 16 TDA1543 chips from a connected PC. The analogue output sees a single pair of low-mass pure copper RCA phono sockets wired directly to the chips through a passive I/V stage. The summed output of paralleled multi-bit convertor chips means there is no need for additional signal amplification or buffering, thereby removing unnecessary signal stages.

Signal wiring has been updated to single-crystal OCC (Ohno Continuous Casting) copper, custom manufactured to CAD specifications. The casework retains its laser-cut 10 mm-thick acrylic construction – available in black as standard or other colours to special order– and is now supplemented with internal RFI/EMI materials to reduce the effects of high-frequency interference on the circuit boards and their ground planes.

Further fighting the insidious effects of EMI/RFI, Computer Audio Design has redesigned the power conditioning at the unit's power input, helping minimize AC line noise from the DAC; as well as isolate neighbouring audio components from any residual digital noise released by the DAC.

The overall result of such scrupulous attention to power supplies and potential noise sources is an audio convertor that seems to paint ink-black quietness behind the sound. A DAC that preserves and projects the rhythm and drive of dynamic music. A digital convertor for the 21st century dedicated solely to computer audio, to unlock with new clarity our archives of digital audio recordings.

Computer Audio Design 1543 MKII DAC key features:

- Five independent transformers feeding five fully discrete linear voltage regulators for the cleanest power to each modular section of the unit.
- Custom 10 mm acrylic case selected for superior acoustic properties.
- NEW: additional internal EMI/RFI materials to lower electromagnetic interference noise floor.
- NEW: redesigned mains power conditioning to reduce ingress and egress of mains-borne noise.
- Sixteen Philips TDA1543/N2 resistor-ladder chips.
- Filterless NOS design for unparalleled time-domain replay accuracy.
- NEW: custom four-layer PCB to support DAC chips.
- Passive output stage with Duelund Coherent Audio capacitors and selected US-made audio resistors all made to CAD specifications.
- NEW: internal signal wiring upgraded to custom UP-OCC copper.
- The 1543 MKII DAC is made in a modular fashion to make future upgrades possible ensuring your investment will last a lifetime.

Pricing and availability

The CAD 1543 MKII DAC is available now, priced at £7,250 (incl. VAT).

Owners of the original 1543 DAC can opt to have their units refitted to full MKII specification at a cost of just £600.

Consumer contacts for publication

Computer Audio Design products are sold through specialist dealers in the UK and worldwide. For more information visit www.computeraudiodesign.com

About Computer Audio Design



Computer Audio Design (CAD) is a high-end audio company founded in 2011 by electrical engineer Scott Berry. With 10 years of electrical engineering experience in the US at Tektronix, and later as an R&D engineer at Xerox, Scott Berry combined his digital design experience with a life-long interest in music and hi-fi to develop the initial prototypes of the 1543 DAC.

Computer Audio Design was established in the UK as a specialist computer audio manufacturer, with the aim of making available to other music lovers this unique digital-to-analogue convertor design that Scott had been refining over 10+ years.

Following the critical success of the 1543 DAC, Computer Audio Design developed a dedicated audio transport unit – the CAD Audio Transport (CAT) – as the best digital source available for playing CD-ripped, hi-resolution audio files and streaming online music sources. The company's other products now include proprietary accessories such as the patented CAD USB Cable and GC1 Ground Control unit.

Press contact

For more information, product samples or high-resolution print-ready images please contact David Denyer on 07976 646 404 or david@ddpr.co.uk

David Denyer PR 	www.daviddenyerp.co.uk
Tel: 07976 646 404	 DavidDenyerPR
Email: david@ddpr.co.uk	 @DaveDenyer

Ends / ©DDPR / No embargo