



B.audio B.DAC EX

DIGITAL DIGITAL TO ANALOGUE CONVERTER

French audio brand B.audio is a young and exciting brand run by the two Bermann brothers. Its growing range began with its Reference series, of which the B.DAC and B.DAC EX standalone digital converters form an important part. The main difference between the two is the B.DAC EX adds DSP acoustic correction and streaming functions.

Jitter busting

Central to the B.DAC/B.DAC EX design is the company's proprietary Source Jitter Removal circuit that eliminates timing inaccuracy from a digital datastream just before it hits the converter itself. The DAC also includes a sophisticated power supply and custom-designed upsampling and output filtration. Adding EX functionality brings Ethernet Roon-compatible UPnP support for Tidal and Qobuz, and 64-bit DSP parametric acoustic correction.

While the parametric equalisation and streaming functionality of a B.DAC EX is excellent, at its core, the B.audio B.DAC is a fine performer. Although it doesn't process the highest of high-resolution DSD or MQA, that doesn't matter. In our test, Jason Kennedy was impressed by the converter's rock-solid timing, coupled with a great sense of energy and refinement. The bass is also powerful and impressive.

People rarely associate digital audio products with noise, when listening to the B.audio B.DAC/B.DAC EX, it's clear some DACs are noisier than others, and the B.audio models are extremely quiet. Very low-level fine details (such as voices in an audience) are easy to follow. The whole sound can be summed up as 'effortless' and B.audio made a DAC (and streamer) that makes you enjoy your music once again.

Reviewed in Issue **201**

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