



MPS-X DIGITAL FRONT END / STREAMER

The purpose of the MPS-X is to separate digital sources from the sensitive circuits of the DAC. For this it uses:

- PLINK, a high quality and proprietary fiber optical link to the DAC for galvanic separation. PLINK supports all sample rates for PCM and DSD natively.
- PDFAS, a proprietary technology to buffer all digital inputs and dramatically reduce any clock jitter. While all our products have this technology already built in, adding a second layer in the MPS-X increases the sonic performance even more.
- separate chassis with high quality linear power supply for physical separation

In addition the MPS-X provides streaming connections from the internet and network attached storage, carefully removes any incoming jitter by Playback Designs' proprietary clocking and buffering system and then encodes all data natively to either the standard Coax, AES outputs or the Playback Designs proprietary PLINK output.

bandwidth protocol than the specified limit of the media to further increase robustness against jitter.

Digital inputs	USB (PCM up to 384kHz, DSD up to 11.2MHz) Streaming (Tidal, Qobuz, Deezer, vTuner, NAS) PLINK for all native sample rates, supports recording AES (PCM up to 192kHz, DSD via DoP) Coax (PCM up to 192kHz, DSD via DoP) TosLink (PCM up to 96kHz)
Digital Outputs	PLINK AES Coax
Clock Generator	Newest generation PDFAS clocking technology for ultra low jitter performance
Software update	Firmware upgradeable by end user
Never leave a product behind	



True to our promise to our customers to always offer upgrade paths wherever possible for their existing Playback Designs products, we are now offering a second generation accessory interface that allows all our products to be upgraded with the latest features in digital streaming and file playback. Some of our Edelweiss and Dream Series products already have the option for these features to be built into them, but with the new external MPS-X interface these same features can also be added externally to all other Playback Designs products at a level of quality never heard before.

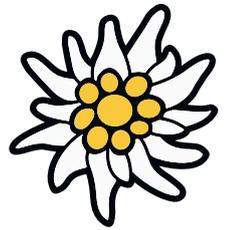
For instance, the combination of the Dream DAC MPD-8 or the Edelweiss DAC MPD-6 and this MPS-X interface is a perfect and efficient package for customers who want to primarily stream their music from the internet and play files from local storage at the best possible performance.

Concept

The concept behind the MPS-X interface is to connect digital sources such as computers, servers, network attached storage, internet streaming services and any other digital source to it rather than directly to the sensitive DAC. It is well known that these digital sources carry a significant amount of digital and sometimes also mechanical noise, such as clock jitter, asynchronous clocks in power supplies and processors, vibration etc.

Connecting these sources to a separate box that is then connected to the DAC with a fiber optical link with a high bandwidth and low jitter specification results in the best possible separation between digital source and analog audio circuitry. This physical and galvanic separation results in a dramatic sonic improvement when compared to a direct connection to the DAC via for instance USB.

And it doesn't stop there. The MPS-X has the same sophisticated clock generator and jitter filter built in as any other Playback Designs product. So by connecting your digital sources to the MPS-X and connecting the MPS-X via PLINK to the Playback Designs DAC the audio signal is filtered (without altering bits), buffered and cleaned twice, once by the MPS-X and once by the DAC, both separated by a high quality fiber optical link, PLINK.



The first version of the PLINK interface was launched more than 15 years ago and supported DSD up to 5.6MHz. This version is called “Classic” and is implemented in the 5-series products and IPS-3 (that have not been upgraded yet). As technology never sits still DSD has been expanded to 11.2MHz several years ago. Accordingly we also expanded the PLINK format and called it “Sonoma” reminiscent of its origin in the professional recording tool for DSD (Sonoma workstation) that was developed by the founder of Playback Designs during the development of the SACD and DSD formats.

PLINK does not use the same media as TosLink, but it is based on a much higher quality and lower jitter media that is used for very high bandwidth communication links where receivers require an extremely low jitter signal for reliable decoding. For PLINK we use a much lower bandwidth protocol than the specified limit of the media to further increase robustness against jitter.

Features

- new generation USB interface for PCM up to 384kHz and DSD up to 4x
- Built-in Stream-X2 module with full support for PCM up to 384kHz and DSD up to 4x:
 - direct connection to streaming services such as Tidal, Qobuz, Deezer and vTuner that can be controlled via an app on a tablet.
 - file playback from network attached storage via DLNA and UPnP (renderer and server function)
- PLINK I/O compatible with Classic, Sonoma, Edelweiss and Dream Series products
- Newest generation PDFAS clocking technology for ultra low jitter performance
- Connection to Edelweiss and Dream series products via fiber optical PLINK for optimal separation between digital source and analog output stage of DAC.
- Connection to non-Playback Designs products via Coax or AES
- USB connection supports recording via Sonoma Recorder software on Windows computer
- Firmware can be updated by end user