MPD-5 DAC

MPD-5 – Playback Designs Music Playback Digital to Analog Converter 5

The next logical step in the Playback Designs' line of products is the release of the Music Playback Digital to Analog Converter 5, also known as the MPD-5. The Playback Designs MPD-5 is identical in every way to the MPS-5 SACD / CD Player except it does not have a transport mechanism. The MPD-5 is a world class DAC that can receive a variety of external digital sources, including PC based music servers – not only a unique and powerful combination, but also versatile in applications.

With computer based music servers becoming more the norm rather than the exception, the Playback Designs MPD-5 is the top choice for this application. Not only can it be used with a variety of external digital sources, the MPD-5 can be connected directly to a PC or MAC via the USB interface, whereby the MPD-5 becomes the soundcard of the PC or MAC and converts all the digital audio from the computer to analog via the same processes as for all other digital sources. Finally you can expect the same level of sonic performance from your PC as you can from a transport. The MPD-5 automatically recognizes any source (such as a PC, IPod, Discman, etc.) and uses new technology we have developed called PDFAS (Playback Designs Frequency Arrival System) to completely eliminate all jitter. Unique to Playback Designs is the ability of our products to playback super high resolution music files of up to 24/384kHz PCM and 6.1MHz DSD through USB off of either a PC or MAC. This is 32 times the resolution of players with the ability to playback 192kHz high resolution files.

PLAYBACK DESIGNS

 back to products page

If you have a large CD collection that you have transferred to a hard drive, through the use of our newest apodizing upsampling filter for 44.1 and 48kHz sample rates, PCM music files never sounded better or more analog like. Apodizing filters are special upsampling filters that compensate for some of the ringing effects caused by brickwall filters in the Analog to Digital Converters (A/D) used during recording. Depending on the recordings, apodizing filters can provide audible improvements. This is not a new technology and is used mostly to improve reception signals from the edge of dish antennas (satellite). Since brickwalls in A/D converters are akin to edges on dish antennas the same principle holds for digital audio and similar filters can be used in DACs with noticeable improvements.

Finally, you can expect the same, or in some cases, a much higher level of sonic performance from your PC then you can from the SACD / CD transport. The MPS-5 automatically recognizes any source (such as a PC, MAC, IPod, Discman, etc.) and uses new technology we have developed called PDFAS (Playback Designs Frequency Arrival System) to completely eliminate all jitter.

Another reason for the increase in performance is our newest addition to the 5 Series products: the USB Extender Box (USB-X) which now is included with the purchase of either of our 5 Series products. This external device gives our 5 Series products the ability to playback the super high resolution files we mentioned earlier of up to 24/384kHz PCM and 6.1MHz DSD. Our USB-X technology is deliberately built into a separate chassis to properly isolate the asynchronous clock from the analog circuitry. Our 5 Series products remain the ultimate digital playback device.

The Playback Designs MPS-5 will challenge what you have come to expect as the limitations of digital playback!

CONNECTIVITY

Analog Outputs:

• XLR: balanced, 4Vrms @ 1kHz full level, pin 2 Hot
• RCA: unbalanced, 2Vrms @ 1kHz full level
• BNC: unbalanced, 50Ohms, 2Vrms @ 1kHz full level

Digital Outputs:

• XLR: AES/EBU formatted for stereo linear PCM data. (The data on this output will be up to 24bits and up to 192kHz.)

Data / Clock:

• For future expansion

Digital Inputs:

- AES: XLR connector for AES/EBU formatted stereo linear PCM data, up to 24bits and up to 192kHz.
- S/PDIF: same as AES, but S/PDIF formatted on RCA connector.
- TOSLINK: same as S/PDIF, but on optical connector.
- PLAYLINK: Proprietary links to future Playback Designs equipment.
- PC: Direct USB connection to computers for sample rates up to 48kHz.
- PC: External USB-X connection to computers for sample rates up to 384kHz (PCM) and 6.1MHz (DSD)

System Control:

- REMOTE: RS-232 wired remote control