

# *Wyred 4 Sound*

## OWNER'S MANUAL

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### DAC-1

## Digital to Analog Converter

Get Wired, **WYRED 4 SOUND**

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# Warranty Registration

## **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

Please take a moment to complete the warranty registration form located on our website. You **MUST** complete and submit this form within 30 days of purchase to activate your warranty.

## Unpacking

The DAC packaging contains:

- 1 - Owners Manual
- 1 - 2.0 meter AC Power Cable
- 1 - 1.5 meter USB 2.0 A to B cable
- 1 - DAC-1 Digital to Analog converter

Carefully inspect your new DAC for any shipping damage. Please contact your dealer or Wyred 4 Sound directly if you notice any shipping damage or for anything you suspect is missing from your shipment. All packaging cartons will easily fold flat for convenient storage, and should be stored for future use should there be one.

## Introduction

Wyred 4 Sound products are a perfect example of what is accomplished when practical engineering and knowledge are combined. All components are selected for the greatest possible functionality, durability, and most importantly, the quality. Wyred 4 Sounds' excellence in engineering will provide you with first-class performance and years of satisfaction.

Wyred 4 Sound audio products are designed to bring you closer to the beauty of your music. Our goal is to bring the performance of the recording right into your home with as little change as possible. As you can identify, our drive is focused on the customer. We know what others have to offer, so you can be sure that our value will be substantially more than theirs to keep the American made products desirable. We greatly appreciate your purchase and expect your complete satisfaction. Wyred 4 Sound hopes that you will continue to grow with us as we continue to provide the quality and functionality that you can learn to depend on.

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# Design Features

Perfection takes time, and the time is now. The DAC-1 is finally here! There are many contributions which make the DAC-1 an industry leading DAC. A big thanks goes out to ESS for the implementation of the finest DAC chip on the market, the Sabre reference 9018 DAC. The DAC-1 can process signals up to 32 bits in length, and 200 kHz in sampling frequency through the coax digital inputs. Because of the limitations of Optical transmission, a maximum of 174.6 kHz has proven to be reliable through the TOSLINK inputs. You will find that some optical inputs will operate at rates up to 192 kHz, but is not guaranteed. The DAC-1 USB input will process signals up to 24 bit in length, and sample rates up to 96 kHz. The heart and soul of the DAC-1 uses the 8ch ESS chip in quad-differential mode meaning that there are actually 4 differential D-A conversion circuits for each channel in parallel. This greatly helps achieve the spectacular S/N ratio and output drive capability.

Each of the Coax inputs are transformer coupled to isolate the source while maintaining proper loading. To ensure that the lowest input signal level will satisfy the digital conversion engine, the signals also pass through TTL buffers to maintain consistent signal integrity. To simplify input selection, the ESS chip is also used as the receiver chip and performs all the signal selection and routing. Automatic signal up-sampling is done internally to keep output filtering to a minimum, and is a crucial part of the jitter elimination. To ensure source immunity, the time domain jitter elimination is executed as the signal enters the DAC chip by re-clocking to the desired rate selected by the ESS chip.

With an oversized toroid, more than 115,000uF of capacitance, 3 stages of filtering and 13 regulation points, the power-supply in the DAC-1 is surely overbuilt. The analog output stages are powered by a separate power-supply to ensure isolation from the digital front-end. House-keeping voltages also use separate supplies to guarantee minimal supply contamination. The digital board is supplied with 7 out of the 13 dedicated regulators to ensure tight tolerances, and consistent power delivery.

The best part of the DAC-1 is the proprietary discrete output stages which represent the beginning of the analog generation. You will quickly find why W4S spent so much time developing the cleanest, most transparent, and natural sounding output stage. Instead of choosing the simple path like many others, we took the "dirt road" and it paid off big time. Our grain-free sound stage reproduction is the product of our discrete dual-differential FET input amplifier stage which uses all Dale RN55d resistors for precise control. Because of the dual differential circuits, the completely balanced signal offers balanced and unbalanced outputs which both take advantage of common-mode rejection.

To complete the package, we decided to connect a 2 line display for easy verification of input selection, and sample rate. You will notice that when the DAC is locked onto a signal, the sample rate will be shown, when the signal is lost, the sample rate will read as ---. The up and down buttons on either side of the power button will allow for input scrolling. From the front panel, you can toggle the mute function by quickly pressing the power button. If you push and hold the power, the DAC will power down. When the unit is off, you can quickly tap the power button to bring the unit back to life.

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# Setup Menu

With a quick look at the setup options, you will quickly see how flexible the DAC-1 really is. With each input offering different output levels, you can choose the independent control of each source to best suit the needs of your system. As you will find, other setup options include display dimming options, automatic input scrolling, IIR Bandwidth, PCM Roll-off slope (fast/slow), and a default reset in case things get jumbled up.

To enter the Setup Menu, push and hold the (UP) and (DOWN) buttons while pressing the (POWER) button when the unit is off. Once the menu is activated, you can use the up and down buttons to scroll through the different setup registers. Once the register is selected that you wish to adjust, press the power button to select and enter that register. The menu will now be adjustable (EDIT MODE) and you can use the up/down buttons again to edit the settings. Once the desired setting has been selected and is displayed, press the power button again to save and return to the main menu. You can now scroll through more settings and use the same method to make the changes needed. To exit and apply all changes, press and hold the power button in any main menu register (NOT IN EDIT MODE). The unit will then power down and will be ready for use.

The Menu Map is as follows: (default = bold)

- IIR Bandwidth (<50k / 50k / 60k / 70k)
- Roll-off slope (**Fast** / Slow)
- Display Dim level (Off / Low / Medium / **High**)
  
- Coax 1 Max level (-0-70 db)
- Coax 2 Max level (-0-70 db)
- Toslink 1 Max level (-0-70 db)
- Toslink 2 Max level (-0-70 db)
- USB Max level (-0-70 db)
  
- Automatic input scrolling (Off / **Up** / Down)
- Default Reset (On / **Off**)

## Front panel operation

The front of the DAC-1 offers several features. You will notice a power button to turn the DAC on and off, as well as 2 others that are used for input scrolling. Across the DAC-1 display, you will see the selected input on the left and corresponding sample rate of the signal to the right. When the sample-rate number disappears, the signal lock has been lost. When a number is displayed, then the DAC is locked on to the rate which is displayed.

## USB Configuration (Mac)

Just because the USB interface of the DAC-1 is not the same as the DAC-2 doesn't mean that you shouldn't expect stellar Sonics. As many other products on the market use the standard 16/48 Burr Brown USB receiver chip, the DAC-1 uses a proprietary 24/96 asynchronous USB interface. When connecting to Mac computers the USB interface automatically installs the drivers into the operating system. If you are using a PC, drivers are required for asynchronous operation and they are available for download on the Wyred 4 Sound website on the DAC-1 product page. Windows XP will run the device without drivers but it will not be asynchronous. If you are using a Mac please follow these directions. If you are using a PC please refer to [USB configuration for PC](#) below. Once the DAC is connected to a Mac computer via USB cable, it should self install and be ready for playback in minutes.

**Read the instructions below before connecting the USB cable to your Mac Computer  
(This USB device does not support Mac OS 10.5 or 10.5 PPC)**

1. Connect a USB cable from the dac to the computer ( type: USB A to USB B ) with the computer off.
2. Power up the dac, then the computer. The USB device should automatically start installing once the computer has finished booting.
3. Once the installation has finished, you will be prompted that the DAC-1 has completed installation and is ready to use.
4. For Mac computers you can locate the Audio Midi setup by following these instructions: Go to Finder----> Applications----> Utilities----> Audio Midi setup. Once you have reached the Midi setup you will need to select the "24/96 Async USB Audio Sound" as the default output device and apply the setting.
5. Now you can open your preferable music playback program and find the preferences or options tab. Once you locate the output device, make sure the "24/96 Async USB Audio Sound" audio interface is selected.
6. The last step is easy.....Enjoy your music!

# USB Configuration (PC)

You must first download the drivers which are required for asynchronous operation. They are available for download on the Wyred 4 Sound website (<http://www.wyred4sound.com/downloads.html>). Before using your USB DAC, you must first connect a USB cable, next power up the DAC, then power up the computer, lastly install the drivers that you have downloaded from our website.... in that order. (the drivers can be emailed to you if necessary) You may be successful in the installation process in another method of order, but it may cause headaches in the long run. Please follow the following steps to install the driver. Please keep in mind that you can always ask for help if the following steps don't seem to apply to your application.

1. Navigate to the Wyred 4 Sound website downloads page. <http://www.wyred4sound.com/downloads.html>
2. Locate the file titled "Asynchronous DAC-1 driver package" and click "download".
3. Next click "Save" and be sure to note or specify the folder on your computer where the file will save to.
4. When the download is complete click "open"
5. Now double click the file titled "W4S2496AsynUsbAudioSetup"
6. Click "Setup Software" in the window that pops up.
7. Click "Next" to proceed with installation.
8. On the bottom of the new window, choose whether this should be installed for "Everyone" or "Just me" and click "Next". (Typically "Everyone" will be the appropriate choice. If you have multiple users profiles on your computer and would prefer the driver to only be available when you are logged in, select "Just me".)
9. Follow all prompts with-in the setup to continue the procedure. (Click "Next" two times) If you are asked to continue with non-Windows "signed" driver, please click continue installation.
10. Once the installation has finished, you will be see a window called "RegSvr32", please click "Ok". The installation has completed and the driver is ready to use. It will be necessary to restart the computer for proper operation.
11. It is now necessary to select the "24/96 Async USB Audio Sound" interface as the default output device for your system.
12. The last step is easy.....Enjoy your music!

## Bandwidth / IIR settings

There are several settings in the setup menu that most will not opt to change, but are there just in-case... W4S has set the default settings for optimal sonics. Certain systems may benefit from changing these settings, and is really a personal preference more than anything. PCM Bandwidth selects the range of which the dac will filter the signal. Allowing higher bandwidths may introduce more information and noise than desired. IIR stands for Infinite Impulse Response. This is another setting that each customer should tune to their liking. Please note that these settings offer the slightest sonic differences and may not be really noticed or appreciated until the unit is fully "broken-in".

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## Max Volume Settings

One feature that can be found in the setup menu is the Max volume settings that can be set differently for each input. The Default level is set to -0 db which will offer the highest level output. Some may choose to lower the output level of the DAC to prevent overdriving components connected to its outputs. We recommend that you research the maximum recommended preamp or amps input voltage to maintain proper levels.

## Powering your DAC

When power is applied to the unit and the switch located on the rear is in the on position, the DAC is powered up and ready to be turned on. If you would like to manually disconnect the power from the unit, the switch on the rear is where you would want to do so. To prevent power surges, we recommend using quality surge suppressor equipment. Turning the switch off on the rear of the unit will also protect against surges and spikes should some occur without proper protection.

## Getting Connected

**CAUTION:** Disconnect the power cord or put the power switch in the off position before making any connections to your DAC to minimize the risk of possible amplifier, and loudspeaker damage. Power up your DAC after all final connections have been made and checked.

The input and output connections you will find on the DAC-1 are made of nothing but the best. The RCA (unbalanced) output, and Coax input jacks are made with high quality gold plated copper, and should be properly connected with interconnects of the same value. The Neutrik XLR (balanced) connectors are the finest balanced connector on the market, and are the best possible option for connecting your DAC to your preamplifier. The Toshiba Toslink inputs offer optimum connection with SPDIF sources without the possibility of creating any ground loops.

Using the new W4S power and interconnect cables would be a great way to ensure your system is closer to what we call “our reference”. We are now offering superior cables at an affordable rate that anyone can afford. For more information, please visit the web-site, or send an email to [support@wyred4sound.com](mailto:support@wyred4sound.com).

## “Break-in” period

Your new DAC will deliver outstanding performance right out of the box. However, you should plan on improvements as it reaches its normal operating temperature and once all of the components have a chance to “settle in”. Our experience has shown that the DAC has reached its’ potential after the initial 200 hours. One will find that the initial 100hours, the unit will start to shed the initial slight “brightness” and somewhat harsh transitions (as some will say). During the second 100 hours, your DAC will start to become more fluid, and smoother overall. Additional time is where the lesser of a change happens, and you will come to enjoy your new product for years to come. After the initial break in period, your unit will be ready to perform when powered on.

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# Troubleshooting

## No sound?

If you have your input source and speakers connected, and you can't get music to play, check the following:

1. Verify that the power cord is plugged in and that the outlet is powered up.
2. Check the front panel and make sure that the display lights up.
3. If the display is on and the DAC is locked onto a signal, increase the volume to a significant level to ensure the level is high enough for music playback.
4. If you can hear the slight turn on and off noise when the DAC is activated, but there still isn't any sound, make sure you are getting a signal to it.
5. Verify that the input is selecting the proper input for what you have connected, and is displaying a sample rate.
6. If the input is in the proper position and still no sound, then try replacing the interconnects to verify the connection between the DAC and source.
7. Verify that the interconnects are conducting by replacing them on a different set from a connection that you know works.
8. Now that you have interconnects that you know work, try connecting the DAC to another source that you know has worked in the past.

If you are still experiencing problems after checking all possibilities and using the resources provided please contact your dealer or Wyred 4 Sound directly for further assistance.

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Because the DAC-1 is really an 8ch DAC inside, make sure that all sources (where applicable, ie: DVD players, cable/satellite boxes) are programmed in their setup menu to output 2ch PCM or stereo digital signals. In some cases, the DAC will actually try to decode multichannel formats, but will be unsuccessful because the DAC's outputs are tied together internally. If the DAC is playing music, then there is nothing to worry about, but if you get loud switching noises, or no sound at all, this is probably why.

## Got Hum?

Is there too much hum or hiss coming out of your speakers? If you put your ear right next to the tweeter of your speaker, you should **barely** be able to hear any hiss in normal conditions, depending on amps. If the noise is **easily** heard at a distance, try putting your source on mute, or pause. If this eliminates the noise, it's inherent in the source. If the noise is still there when the preamplifier is muted, try disconnecting the inputs to the amplifier. If the noise is still there when the inputs are disconnected, and the inputs are shorted with shorting plugs, then your amplifier may need some servicing. If the noise is not there when the inputs are disconnected, try putting a cheater plug (ground isolator) on one or all components in order to eliminate a ground loop issue. NOTE: We only recommend using a ground isolator for trouble shooting purposes, and should be removed after the problem has been found. Having the ground of any unit disconnected can potentially create a dangerous situation.

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An easy way to locate a noisy component is to replicate the problem then start disconnecting components one at a time, starting with a source. Digital cable boxes and satellite receivers are notorious for making ground loop hum. This is normally caused by the potential difference on the input wire (shield side) for either of the boxes when referenced to ground. If this is the case in your system, the installation of an isolating transformer would be the easiest solution and are normally readily available at your local electronics parts store. A better solution is a power strip with grounded and surge protected F-connectors that you can pass a signal through. Where possible, use the Toslink inputs. Because of the optical transmission, there isn't any audio connection path to ground between components, and the possibility of a ground loop should disappear.

## Warranty coverage

Wyred 4 Sound's warranty obligations are limited to the terms set forth below:

Wyred 4 Sound, as defined below, warrants this Wyred 4 Sound-branded hardware product against defects in materials and workmanship under normal use for a period of **FIVE (5) YEARS from the date of retail purchase by the original end user purchaser ("Warranty Period")**. If the product has been transferred from the original owner to a second hand owner it has a **ONE (1) YEAR warranty, valid from the original date of purchase by the original owner**. If a hardware defect arises and a valid claim is received within the Warranty Period, at its option, Wyred 4 Sound will either (1) repair the hardware defect at no charge, using new or refurbished replacement parts, or (2) exchange the product with a product that is new or which has been manufactured from new or serviceable used parts and is at least functionally equivalent to the original product. Wyred 4 Sound may option that you replace defective parts with new or refurbished user-installable parts that Wyred 4 Sound provides in fulfillment of its warranty obligation. A replacement product or part, including a user-installable part that has been installed in accordance with instructions provided by Wyred 4 Sound, assumes the remaining warranty of the original product or ninety (90) days from the date of replacement or repair, whichever provides longer coverage for you. When a product or part is exchanged, any replacement item becomes your property and the replaced item becomes Wyred 4 Sound's property. Parts provided by Wyred 4 Sound in fulfillment of its warranty obligation must be used in products for which warranty service is claimed. When a refund is given, the product for which the refund is provided must be returned to Wyred 4 Sound and becomes Wyred 4 Sound's property.

## EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Wyred 4 Sound does not warrant that the operation of the product will be uninterrupted or error-free. Wyred 4 Sound is not responsible for damage arising from failure to follow instructions relating to the product's use. This warranty does not apply: (a) to damage caused by use with non-Wyred 4 Sound products; (b) to damage caused by accident, abuse, misuse, flood, fire, earthquake or other external causes; (c) to damage caused by operating the product outside the permitted or intended uses described by Wyred 4 Sound; (d) to damage caused by service (including upgrades and expansions) performed by anyone who is not a representative of Wyred 4 Sound or a Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Provider; (e) to a product or part that has been modified to significantly alter functionality or capability without the written permission of Wyred 4 Sound; (f) if any Wyred 4 Sound serial number has been removed or defaced.

TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THIS WARRANTY AND REMEDIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, REMEDIES AND CONDITIONS, WHETHER ORAL OR WRITTEN, STATUTORY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. AS PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, WYRED 4 SOUND

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## Obtaining warranty service

Please access and review the resources referred to in the documentation accompanying this hardware product before requesting warranty service. If the product is still not functioning properly after making use of these resources, please contact the Wyred 4 Sound representatives or, if applicable, a Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Provider located using the information provided in the documentation. A Wyred 4 Sound representative or Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Provider will help determine whether your product requires service and, if it does, will inform you how Wyred 4 Sound will provide it. Wyred 4 Sound or its Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Providers will provide warranty service on products that are tendered or presented for service during the Warranty Period, as permitted by law. **Wyred 4 Sound is not responsible for freight charges to our facility for warranty repairs. We will cover return freight charges (domestic only) if the unit is found to be faulty and still within the warranty coverage period. You will be responsible for delivery and return shipping and handling charges if the product cannot be serviced in the country it is in.** In accordance with applicable law, Wyred 4 Sound may require that you furnish proof of purchase details and/or comply with registration requirements before receiving warranty service. Please refer to the accompanying documentation for more details on this and other matters on obtaining warranty service.

Recovery and reinstallation of system and application software and user data are not covered under this Limited Warranty.

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# Service

In the unlikely event there is a problem with your Wyred 4 Sound component, please contact your dealer, distributor, or Wyred 4 Sound to discuss the problem before you return the component to our manufacturing facilities for repair. Products shipped to the factory will be refused and returned freight collect if not accompanied by a Wyred 4 Sound Service Department issued return authorization number (RA Number). Return authorization numbers must be prominently displayed on the outside of the box and an accompanying letter describing the problem and re-listing the RA number must be inside the box to qualify for service.

## To contact the Wyred 4 Sound Service Department:

**TELEPHONE** 805-466-9973  
**HOURS** M/F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm PST  
**FAX** 805-462-8962  
**E-MAIL** [support@wyred4sound.com](mailto:support@wyred4sound.com)  
**WEBSITE** <http://www.wyred4sound.com>

If you are located in the United States use the following procedure:

1. Fill out the Service form at the following address and be sure to document all details:  
<http://www.wyred4sound.com/Service.html>
2. If service is approved we will issue a Return Authorization Number (R/A number) from the Wyred 4 Sound Service Department. Be sure to confirm the current shipping address.
3. Insure and accept all liability for loss or damage to the product during shipment to the W4S facility and ensure all freight (shipping) charges are prepaid.

The product may also be hand delivered to the California facility if arrangements with the Service Department have been made in advance. Proof of purchase from an authorized Wyred 4 Sound dealer, distributor or agent will be required for warranty validation at the time of hand delivery. Use the original packaging to ensure the safe transit of the product to the factory, dealer, or distributor. Wyred 4 Sound may, at its discretion, return a product in new packaging and bill the owner for such packaging if the product received by Wyred 4 Sound was boxed in nonstandard packaging or if the original packaging was so damaged to the point it was unusable. If Wyred 4 Sound determines that new packaging is required, the owner will be notified before the product is returned. To purchase additional packaging, please contact your authorized Wyred 4 Sound dealer, distributor, or the Wyred 4 Sound Service Department for assistance.

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# Service procedure

If you are located outside of the United States use the following procedure:

1. Obtain a Return Authorization Number (R/A number) and shipping address from your dealer or distributor's Service Department.
2. Insure and accept all liability for loss or damage to the product during shipment to the dealer or distributor's Service Department and ensure all freight (shipping) charges are prepaid.

If you feel your authorized dealer or distributor is either unwilling or unable to service your Wyred 4 Sound products, please contact our service department at [customersupport@wyred4sound.com](mailto:customersupport@wyred4sound.com) or at the above contact numbers to discuss and resolve the situation.

Voltage changes to match your country's voltage and frequency requirements to your Wyred 4 Sound product are possible only at the time of purchase. The DAC series are set to a fixed voltage to match your country's requirements and may not be easily changed.

**Your Wyred 4 Sound product serial number is:**

**Your dealer or distributor information:**

**Your purchase information:**

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## DAC-1 Specifications

Typical Distortion THD+N (20-20kHz A-weighted)	<0.006% THD+N
Frequency Response (20-20kHz)	+/- 0.075db
S/N Ratio	> 115 db
Crosstalk	> 98 db
Noise (A-weighted)	< 7uV
Noise	< 10uV
Balanced Output Level	5.2V (14.2 db)
Unbalanced Output Level	2.6V (8.2 db)
Output Impedance	100Ω
Channel Tracking	< +/- 0.50 db

Check out the latest news, products and services!

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