

Wyred 4 Sound

OWNER'S MANUAL

DAC-1 LE

Digital-to-Analog Converter ***with* Support for DSD**

Get Wired, **WYRED 4 SOUND**

WYRED 4 SOUND
DAC-1 LE v1
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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-1 LE 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 LE 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 missing from the package. All packaging cartons will fold flat for convenient storage, and should be kept for any needed future use.

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, 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

At Wyred 4 Sound, one of our goals is to bring cutting-edge technology to as many people as possible. With that in mind, the affordable DAC-1 LE, with DSD processing capability, is here! There are many contributions which make the DAC-1 LE 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 LE 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 LE USB input will process signals up to 32 bit in length, and sample rates up to 384 kHz PCM or 128x DSD. The heart and soul of the DAC-1 LE 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 toroidal transformer, more than 115,000uF of capacitance, 3 stages of filtering and 13 regulation points, the power-supply in the DAC-1 LE 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 LE 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

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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.

Setup Menu

With a quick look at the setup options, you will quickly see how flexible the DAC-1 LE 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 quickly (do not press and hold or the unit may power off) 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. *(Setup menu next page)*

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

- 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 LE 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 LE 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

The USB interface of the DAC-1 LE is driverless for Mac systems 10.6-10.9 as well as Linux. The included driver disk has standard drivers as well as ASIO drivers for Windows XP, Vista, 7, and 8.

When using the DAC with a Windows machine via USB you MUST install the drivers before connecting the USB device. Do not connect the DAC with a USB cable until the drivers are completely installed. You will notice that there are two variations of the standard Windows drivers which include an XP version and a version for



Vista, 7, and 8. There is also a 32 bit and 64 bit version of the ASIO driver. Please be sure to install the correct driver for your system. The ASIO drivers are not required for audio playback but can be beneficial in some configurations. If you do choose to install the ASIO drivers be sure to install them after the standard driver installation is complete. (*ASIO is a registered trademark of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH.*)

A quick install guide for the standard drivers is located below. More detailed instructions can be found on the FAQ page of the Wyred 4 Sound website.

1. Locate the driver disk supplied with the unit.
2. Insert the CD into the disk drive of your computer
3. Locate the folder that shows the contents of the CD
4. Open the folder that contains the proper drivers for you system (XP or Vista, 7, 8).
5. You will need to double click the correct Setup32 or Setup64 file to initiate the install.
 - a. **Windows XP, Vista & 7:** If you are unsure whether you computer is running a 32-bit or 64-bit operating system you can check by clicking the Start button. Next right click My Computer and then select Properties.
 - i. Windows XP will list x64 Edition in the details for 64 bit. If nothing is listed then the system is 32-bit.
 - ii. Windows Vista and 7 will list 32-bit Operating System or 64-bit Operating System in the details.
 - b. **Windows 8:** To determine if your system is 32-bit or 64-bit first hover your mouse over the lower right hand corner. Next, click Settings and then select PC info.
 - i. The System type will say either 32-bit Operating System or 64-bit Operating System in the details.
6. Once the install process has begun follow the on screen instructions. The install wizard will prompt you when the process is complete. If you require more detailed instructions please visit the FAQ page of our website.
7. Connect the DAC to your computer with the supplied USB cable, power the DAC on, and select the USB input. You may be prompted by an install wizard that additional installation steps are required. Follow the on screen instructions. The install wizard will prompt you when the process is complete.
8. It is now necessary to select the Wyred 4 Sound USB interface as the default output device for your system. The device name will vary depending on the operating system you are using.
 - a. **Windows XP:** Wyred 4 Sound Streaming
 - b. **Windows Vista, 7, 8:** Digital Output / Wyred 4 Sound USB Driver 1.0.56

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c. **MAC OS X:** 32bit 384kHz DSD Interface

- i. For Mac OS X 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 W4S DAC-2 as the default output device and apply the setting.
- ii. For Windows OS you will need to locate the Audio output device (Manage Audio Devices) selection which can be found in the control panel located in the startup menu. Regardless of your system you will need to set the default output device to the Wyred 4 Sound interface. This setting will be part of the OS and not the media player.

****Please note:** Additional output configuration and device selection may be required in your media player.**

9. 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".

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.

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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 LE 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 website, or send an email to support@wyred4sound.com.

“Break-in”/ Warming Up 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 100 hours, 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.

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.

*Note: Because the DAC-1 LE 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 DACs 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 troubleshooting purposes, and should be removed after the problem has been found. Having the ground of any unit disconnected can potentially create a dangerous situation.

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. The remote control is covered under warranty for the first year. If a hardware defect arises and a

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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 SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL STATUTORY OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, AND WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND WARRANTIES AGAINST HIDDEN OR LATENT DEFECTS. IF WYRED 4 SOUND CANNOT LAWFULLY DISCLAIM STATUTORY OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES THEN TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, ALL SUCH WARRANTIES SHALL BE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THIS EXPRESS

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WARRANTY AND TO REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT SERVICE AS DETERMINED BY WYRED 4 SOUND IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS WARRANTY AND TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, WYRED 4 SOUND IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY BREACH OF WARRANTY OR CONDITION, OR UNDER ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOSS OF USE; LOSS OF REVENUE; LOSS OF ACTUAL OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS ON CONTRACTS); LOSS OF THE USE OF MONEY; LOSS OF ANTICIPATED SAVINGS; LOSS OF BUSINESS; LOSS OF OPPORTUNITY; LOSS OF GOODWILL; LOSS OF REPUTATION; LOSS OF, DAMAGE TO OR CORRUPTION OF DATA; OR ANY INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE HOWSOEVER CAUSED INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY, ANY COSTS OF RECOVERING, PROGRAMMING, OR REPRODUCING ANY PROGRAM OR DATA STORED OR USED WITH WYRED 4 SOUND PRODUCTS AND ANY FAILURE TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA STORED ON THE PRODUCT. THE FOREGOING LIMITATION SHALL NOT APPLY TO DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS. WYRED 4 SOUND DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATION THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO REPAIR ANY PRODUCT UNDER THIS WARRANTY.

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.

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

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 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/Th 7am - 4:30pm, F 7am - 11am PST

FAX: 805-462-8962

E-MAIL: 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. 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 non standard 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.

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 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 LE 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