

Prestige SACD Player Reference

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# Take the SACD challenge ...



This player is intended to be the source of a top-of-the-range audio system. It's dedicated to the discerning audiophile looking for the best playback for CDs and SACDs. Due to its integrated preamplifier, it also reduces the connections between apparatus and the signal keeps its high quality and transparency. In consequence, you only have to choose a very high quality interconnect cable that we recommend to be pure copper.

Our Prestige player is based on the latest generation CD/SACD mechanism from Philips chosen for its musicality. We applied a specific vibration treatment to enhance its reading ability. This laser mechanism, supported by a thick specific aluminium sub-chassis, is implemented in an ultra rigid chassis. Based on a proprietary aluminium section reducing vibrations, the whole system is mounted on a set of carbon damping washers and cones. On the electronic side, digital treatment is achieved by our 2nd generation STARS

module developed by Anagram Technologies for Audio Aero Design. Based on a DSP Sharc 32 bit, it performs the following operations that can be divided in 2 for DSD. The first one is DSD treatment. We took the option to convert DSD to PCM for the following reasons:  
- DSD signal generates a strong high frequencies noise that interferes with audible bandwidth. By converting DSD to PCM, we reduce this noise in a significant manner and win 9dB on the signal noise ratio  
- We chose a PCM 24/192 DAC for its better characteristics than most of DSD converters (in our case, the PCM1792 DAC from Burr Brown – S/N 127dB)\*. The second part of digital treatment is a 24 bit/ 192 kHz re-sampling (for original PCM and PCM from DSD conversion): data is shared from the original clock, a new jitter free clock is created and we readjust the data on it. Then we perform an on-demand 1024 times over-sampling on this clean and enhanced signal.

This high resolution 24 bit/ 192 kHz signal is the consequence of millions calculations per second with any loss of information. The 5 digital inputs, where can be plugged any PCM output from a DVD player or DAT, allow a 24/192 re-sampling. So, you can bring any non encoded digital source to the highest quality level. Digital to analogue conversion is performed by one of the best DA converters available\*. Then, after this top-of-the-range digital treatment, we chose to design an analogue tube output stage. We selected the double triode sub miniature 6021W tube from Philips Jan. Directly soldered to PCB, without socket and small sized, this tube built in accordance with military standards, allows avoiding wrong contacts due to the socket, shortens the signal path and is less sensitive to vibrations than standard tubes. It is also better adapted to SMD environment.

The volume control - in the analogue domain to avoid any loss of resolution - is performed by a high quality "ladder" attenuator. Whatever the volume setting, this component is invisible to the signal. The buffer stage is performed by carefully selected NE5534 mono op amps and professional line drivers for balanced outputs. This preamp output, with a 7Vrms maximum output voltage, allows driving most of the amps on the market while you can also use a separated preamp by setting volume control on -10dB, which will simulate a 2Vrms fixed output without loss of quality.



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## Technical Specifications

Frequency range (with CD and 16/44.1kHz input) : 5 Hz - 21 kHz (- 1dB)

Frequency range (with SACD or 24/96 input) : 3 Hz - 48 kHz (- 1dB)

Output voltage : up to 7 V RMS

Output impedance : 100 ohms

Signal to noise ratio : 127dB

Total harmonic distortion : < 0,2 %

Read software : SACD 2 channel, 16 bit / 44.1 kHz audio CD, CD-R, CD-RW

100-240 VAC, 50 / 60 Hz

Power consumption : 33W

Philips SACD mechanism on a dedicated aluminum subchassis and cover

Custom S.T.A.R.S. 2<sup>®</sup> process performing DSD to PCM bridge and 24 bit / 192 kHz RE-sampling

Jitter control software

Burr-Brown PCM1792 24 bit / 192 kHz Digital to Analog converter

6021W subminiature tube

Volume attenuator

Analog outputs: single-ended RCA and balanced XLR

Analog inputs: single-ended RCA and balanced XLR

Digital output : BNC

Digital inputs : BNC, RCA, AES/EBU, AT&T, TOSLINK

Chassis : 25/10 aluminum

Lid : 40/10 aluminum

Weight : 33 lbs.

Dimensions (W x L x H) : 17.32 x 17.72 x 5.51 inches