

LA Lehmannaudio®

Linear D

Headphone Amplifier
Streaming Preamp



Clarity, power and class

Since Lehmannaudio turned the 'emergency exit' of classic hi-fi amplifiers into a gate to a new musical perception with their Linear back in 2004, headphone outputs with frustrating sound have become a thing of the past. The Linear D in its topical mk II version demonstrates that there's always room for improvement: its digital-analogue converter of the latest generation and its thoroughly revised analogue board let you experience all-new horizons when listening to your favourite music – goose bumps guaranteed.

The Linear D mk II is the perfect complement to streamers and CD players. It recognises digital signals, automatically selects the optimal input and needs no input selector. The Sabre DAC from ESS on the quad-layer circuit board, which has been optimised against HF interference, offers both digital S/PDIF and TOSLINK inputs. Low-loss mica capacitors on the mainboard and in the converter analogue filter as well as ultra fast amplifier stages on the converter board guarantee reference quality. Owing to three settings the Linear D mk II adapts to the most diverse headphone-source combinations, and with one analogue and two digital inputs it also delivers a breathtakingly expressive performance as a streaming preamp on active loudspeakers.

The Linear D mk II makes people happy who want to enjoy music in an intense and pristine way and brings together those who share musical enjoyment: two parallel outputs on the discrete class A solid-state output stages powerfully feed two headphones of equal impedance without compromising the listening experience. Our 3S Device Feet decouple the Linear D mk II from its base and provide calmness. So the Linear D mk II sounds even more sculptural now: with lush, yet never ostentatious lows, delicate resolution and zero-gravity elegance over the entire frequency range. Turn the massive, damped potentiometer of the Linear D mk II. Rediscover your analogue and digital musical treasures!

Highlights

Features

- high-resolution ESS Sabre K2M DAC with two digital inputs
- automatic input signal prioritisation for more user convenience
- maximum gain adjustable up to 20 dB
- Mica capacitors in the analogue filter and on the mainboard for optimum transient response
- analogue board in Low-Z Copper for enhanced dynamics
- discrete class A output stage for an open and natural sound
- two Neutrik headphone sockets with gold-plated contacts
- pre-out for use as preamp
- oversized internal power supply

Options

- aluminium faceplate available in silver, black or chrome

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Tech Info

Analogue section

Input impedance	47 kohms
Maximum gain	0 dB, 10 dB, 18 dB, 20 dB selectable via DIP switches
Frequency response	10 Hz (-0.3 dB) to 35 kHz (-1 dB)
Signal to noise ratio	> 100 dB at gain 0 dB
THD	< 0.001 % at 6 mW/300 ohms
Channel separation	> 80 dB at 10 kHz
Output power	• 400 mW/60 ohms • 200 mW/300 ohms
Output impedance	• pre-out 50 ohms • phones out 5 ohms
Connectors audio	• Neutrik headphone jacks with gold plated contacts • 1 x pre-out • 2 x phones out • gold plated RCA sockets with teflon insulation
Power consumption	15 W through internal, regulated power supply
Special feature	• PC board in Low-Z Copper technology • vibration-absorbing 3S Device Feet • optional accessory: mounting kit

Outer dimensions W x D x H	110 mm x 280 mm x 44 mm (4.3 x 11 x 2 in.)
Weight	1.5 kg (3.3 lbs.) net

Digital-analogue converter

Digital inputs	• 1 x TOSLINK (automatically prioritised) • 1 x RCA 75 ohms
Sampling rate digital	32 kHz; 44.1 kHz; 48 kHz; 88.2 kHz; 96 kHz; 192 kHz
Resolution	24 bits
Chipset	ESS Sabre K2M
Analogue filter	Silver Mica capacitors
Max. output level DAC	1.8 V eff.
Special feature	The analogue input is automatically activated, when no digital signal is recognised

Version: December 2020. Subject to change without prior notice.

Press Commentaries

FIDELITY *'You will rarely experience a device which appears visually and acoustically so pleasantly unpretentious and still captivates the listener from the first note, be it as a headphone amplifier or a line-level preamp. And the fact that the digital section is currently state-of-the-art underscores the impression of a device which has been well conceived in every detail. Norbert Lehmann has successfully applied a gentle evolution to his classic unit that will make you prick up your ears in all musical moments.'*

FIDELITY/01 2019

AUDIO *'The listening check immediately revealed that the improvement activities have been effective. Regarding fine dynamics, resolution and tonal neutrality the Linear D MKII gave an impressive performance, exposing the finest of details and with enough power at any time to drive higher impedance headphones adequately as well.'*

AUDIO/12 2018

stereoplay *'The plain housing does not contain just a headphone amplifier. With the Linear D Lehmannaudio has created an audiophile masterpiece that will take every headphone to ultimate sonic performance.'*

stereoplay/05 2016

STEREO *'With the precision of a Swiss chronometer the Linear D made by Lehmannaudio deals with its task – driving headphones to perform at their very best.'*

STEREO/01 2016

Awards



'Goldenes Ohr'
1st place category
headphone amplifiers
AUDIO/2019



'Goldenes Ohr'
1st place category
headphone amplifiers
stereoplay/2017



PLUS X AWARD
2016



Best Amplifier
CanJam Europe/2015