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CONSTELLATION AUDIO INTRODUCES CYGNUS DAC/MEDIA PLAYER at CES 2015

Constellation Audio, manufacturer of world-class solid-state electronics, is pleased to announce the debut of the Performance Series Cygnus DAC/Media Player at CES 2015. Designed by the same Constellation Audio “dream team” that brought us other award-winning Reference and Performance Series components, the Cygnus DAC/Media Player is available in two distinct versions: a standalone DAC and a combination DAC/Media player. In offering both versions which are completely software upgradable, Constellation Audio offers the sophisticated high-end consumer the opportunity to select the configuration which best meets his/her needs.

At the heart of both iterations of Cygnus is a unique two-box design. Most people would suspect that the smaller box houses the power supply, and it does, along with much more. This box also houses a Linux computer, USB media ports, Ethernet adapter port, and a Wi-Fi control link. In the larger box are housed the DAC itself (with AES/EBU, coaxial, and toslink digital inputs), analog clocks, and the analog stage. Within the smaller box are three separate specialized R-core transformers: one each for the left and right analog channels and another one for the digital and control circuitry. In the Media player version only, the power supply box also utilizes a unique DVI connection. The purpose of the DVI connection is to conduct the various clocks and I2S data back and forth between the two chassis.

One area where Constellation Audio excels is in our analog outputs. Cygnus uses the same output stage as does the Virgo II preamplifier, the Line Stage Gain Module in a fixed-gain version. This fully balanced complementary preamp stage uses mirror-imaged circuits—one for the positive half of the signal, one for the negative half—for superior noise rejection, faster slew

rate and wider frequency response. The audio circuit is built entirely from discrete components, with no ICs used for any analog audio functions.

With any media server, the user interface is critically important. Constellation Audio has developed a unique way to access the information on Cygnus through its own resident webpage. Its built-in Wi-Fi is directly accessible and controllable from any laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone. This eliminates the need for a special application on the control device.

Cygnus also uses advanced digital hardware including a Quad 32-bit/192-kHz DAC and a custom digital filter. On the DAC side, in a fully complementary arrangement, the Cygnus uses two filterless professional 32/192 DACs per channel: one for the positive half of the audio signal, the other for the negative half. This balanced design delivers even the subtlest details of any recording—details most DACs tend to obscure. The custom digital filter, which we developed, allows the listener to choose from several filter profiles, selecting whichever best suits the music.

Finally, in terms of file processing, Cygnus plays WAV, FLAC, DSD 64, and AIFF files. The Media Server version allows easy connection via files stored on a memory stick. The DAC-only version also accepts a USB signal from a hard drive or laptop.

Regardless of one's digital needs, the Constellation Audio Cygnus Media Server/DAC provides a state-of-the-art solution perfectly suited to any high-end audio environment. Cygnus will be on display at CES 2015 in the Constellation Audio suite in The Venetian, #34-210.

SPECIFICATIONS

Supported digital file formats: FLAC, WAV, AIFF, DSD 64

DAC inputs: 1 AES/EBU, 2 RCA SPDIF, 2 TosLink, 1 USB (optional)

DAC outputs: RCA and XLR stereo analog audio

Supported sampling rates/bit depth: Up to 192 kHz/32 bits on

USB/AES/SPDIF; Up to 96 kHz/32 bits on COAX/AES/TosLink

Available filter profiles: minimum-phase, phase-perfect, Bessel, Butterworth

THD+N: <0.01%

Frequency response: 20 Hz to 22 kHz, ± 0.2 dB

Output noise: ≤ 100 dB

Output impedance: B & UB, <50 ohm

Weight, digital file player: 35 lbs/16 kg

Weight, power supply: 22 lbs/10 kg

Dimensions, digital file player: 5.50 x 17.00 x 15.75 in (hwd); 140 x 432 x 400mm (hwd)

Dimensions, power supply: 5.00 x 6.00 x 14.50 in (hwd); 127 x 152 x 368mm (hwd)

PRICING AND AVAILABILITY: The US Retail price of the Constellation Audio Cygnus Media Server/DAC is \$32,000 and for the standalone DAC is \$27,000. Shipments are scheduled to begin in Q1 2015.

ABOUT CONSTELLATION AUDIO

Constellation Audio was formed for the purpose of bringing to discriminating listeners the highest performing audio products in their respective categories. To do this required assembling a "dream team" of the finest multi-disciplined designers and engineers in the business. Quality is assured by manufacturing all Constellation Audio products in our own factory in California.

CONTACT

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