

A-VCOA July 20, 2014 Equipment Roster & Program

PLAYERS – DAPs (Digital Audio Players)

EQUIPMENT	TYPE	OWNER
Windows Laptop (Baseline)	Player (DAC/Pre-Amp)	Mike Lyles
Astell & Kern AT120	Player (DAC/Pre-Amp)	Horton McCurdy
Fiio X5	Player (DAC/Pre-Amp)	Mike Lyles

DAC/PRE-AMPS

Benchmark DAC-2 (Baseline)	DAC/Pre-Amp	Nick Arroyo (On loan)
Chord Hugo	DAC/Pre-Amp	Lee Scoggins (On loan)
iDSD nano	DAC/Pre-Amp	John Morrison
iDSD micro	DAC/Pre-Amp	Darren Censullo
Matrix Mini-1 Pro	DAC/Pre-Amp	Mike Lyles
Oppo HA-1	DAC/Pre-amp	Horton McCurdy

ACCESSORIES & MISCELLANEOUS

iFi Audio iUSB Power, Gemini & Mercury Cables, & iPurifier	Nick Arroyo
iFi Audio iTube Buffer	Darren Censullo
mini USB adapters for Players, DACs	John Morrison
Specialized USB Plugs and Adaptors	Player/DAC providers.
3.5mm Phono Plug/RCA convertors	John Morrison
Club interconnects	Sam Papadas & Others

Our reference will use the Windows Laptop to iFi USB string to DAC-2 and then to club system. This is our baseline for home playback of digital files. We will preload the tracks to the PC hard drive and the same for all “players”. They will all have the same files. We will also verify whether each player/DAC combo can actually play DSD/DXD.

We have selected one each wav file for Classic Rock, Classic Jazz, Female Vocal, and Classical (Big Orchestral Piece). We’ll also have a DSD and a DXD track. Each track will have 1.5 minute excerpts. This will give us approximately 6-9 minutes of reference playback material per setup.

Program format is a series of “Test Cases”. Play Reference setup first, then...

Test Case #1 - Substitute other DACs one by one. 4 Wave Files plus 1 DSD & 1 DXD file. (Chord Hugo, iDSD nano, iDSD micro, Matrix Mini-1, Oppo HA-1, AK-120 (DAC Mode), Fiio X5 (DAC Mode))

(After this test case, we’ll choose the favorite attendee DAC)

Test Case #2 - Play each player with internal DAC through analog outputs, Analog output on max, audio controlled by passive box. Wave only (PC, AK 120 (Player mode), and Fiio X5 (Player mode))

Test Case #3 - Play each player with internal DAC through analog outputs, audio controlled by Player. Wave only (PC, AK 120 (Player mode), and Fiio X5 (Player mode))

Test Case #4 - Play each player through “Favorite” DAC chosen earlier, Analog output on max, Wave only (PC, AK 120 (Player mode), Fiio X5 (Player mode)) (If enough time, will try iTube in circuit!)

Test Case 2 for all music players with internal DACs will first max their volume controls & use the passive box for control. Test Case 3 uses the built in volume controls. We will combine Test Cases 2 and 3 by maxing the volume in the player and using the passive box for control and then maxing the passive box and using the volume control in the player. The purpose is to discover if using the Volume Controls in the Players compromises their sound.