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Aurender s10 manual

This guide provides instructions on how to configure the Aurender S10 and iPad application, along with detailed descriptions of the various features. Due to regular updates to the music player system and software of the Aurender app for iPad, read the section on version notes for the latest information about the latest software versions. Two-year warranty The warranty period for Aurender digital music players is two years, includes parts and labor. The warranty is non-transferable and covers all defects in materials or processing during the warranty period indicated above during normal use. The warranty does not cover defects due to accidental damage, damage from improper operation, damage in transit, misuse or alterations. TVLogic reserves the right to inspect and modify defective products for the repair or replacement of defective parts or parts. TVLogic is not responsible for defects due to accidental damage, improper operating damage, damage in transit, misuse or alterations. * Apple and iPad are registered trademarks of Apple Inc. All other trademarks are the exclusive property of their respective owners. The digital output on the back panel of the Aurender must be connected to the corresponding digital input of a DA converter or amplifier. Before connecting any digital cable, first check that all devices are on the ground. This should be done by connecting the power cables using ground plugs and ground sockets. In addition, all devices must be turned off, before connecting any digital cables. If the devices are not on the ground, a voltage potential difference between the devices can cause a surge in voltage through the digital cable that can weaken and possibly damage sensitive circuits in D/A converters and other devices. The Ethernet port must be connected to a wireless router before turning on Aurender. The wireless router is required to use your iPad and connect to the Internet for updates. It is recommended to connect Aurender to the router using a wired connection for faster file transfers. * Apple and iPad are registered trademarks of Apple Inc. All other trademarks are the exclusive property of their respective owners. Aurender music servers can usually be diagnosed and resolved remotely over the Internet in case of problems. To receive remote support assistance, send a remote support request email using the Aurender iPad application by going to SETTINGS and then to the HELP tab. Press the Remote Support Request email button. You must have an email application already configured on your iPad for it to work. Describe the with as much detail as possible. Sending a remote support request email will allow our engineers to access the Aurender unit. For those who don't have emails on their iPads, the remote support number and MAC address must be found manually. To find the remote support number and MAC address, make sure that the music server is connected to the Internet. Then turn on the Remote Support screen by pressing the Play/Suspend button on the front panel and holding it until the front display flashes, and then release the button. The Remote Support screen that lists the remote support number and mac address will appear as in the following image. To return to the normal screen, hold down the Play/Suspend button on the front panel until the screen changes and then releases. Send the remote support number, MAC address, and details about the problem dsupport@widealab.com (distributors and resellers only). Note: The Aurender must be turned on and connected to the Internet, for engineers to diagnose the problem. If you have any questions or comments, leave them below or send us an email. Here is a convenient and tidy solution. Can we finally banish the PC, monitor and the associated mess from the living room and slip on the CD player? Example of a review provided by Studio Alkmaar, a retailer in the Netherlands. Retail price 5990 euros First contact When I first laid eyes on the Aurender in an audioshow about a year ago, I was immediately attracted to it. I think it was in the eye: just like the famous McIntosh blue counters, Aurender's multipurpose displays can have a mesmerizing effect on people. Of course there is more to a product than its displays, but the Aurender continues to amaze with its thick and well-crafted aluminum casing all round, its connectors precisely insled on the back side and its stunning weight. There is no doubt that it is a serious product. Since then I've tried to get my hands on a sample of reviews, but I couldn't until I saw it in one of my favorite audio stores, Studio Alkmaar. Ben Hoedjes, the owner, was more than happy to lend it to me for review. And so it happens that I am now in an interesting position to compare it not only with its direct competitor in this price range, the PS Audio PWD MKII, but also with what I consider the best in audio streaming, the Meridian 818. The Aurender S10 is an integrated music server: it has a 2TB built into the hard drive and as such works without the addition of a NAS or computer that acts as a server. What's not inside, however, is a DAC. It is not simply a computer with a slapped sound card, but a completely customized solution. Inside the Aurender S10 resembles the way large Wadias are built, with three separate sections separated by thick aluminum walls. At its base there is a computer motherboard, which runs custom Linux software and the board is housed in its own section in the part of the unit. The power for the motherboard comes from a switched unit that is also hidden in the basement. There is also one of the linear type (non-switching) that powers the sound card and this also has its own compartment. Then there's the sound card. This is it's it gets really special because Widealab decided that no standard sound card was good enough for their purpose, so they built their own. And it's a beauty, using the custom Widealab OCXO (Oven Controlled Crystal Oscillators) watch and re-clock modules. Accurate watch is very important, especially when you have to use different types of sample frequency. And of course it is never beneficiary to run a signal on spdif, so the better the clock, the better the signal recovered at the other end of the cable. The coaxial, AES/EBU and optical outputs are powered by the custom sound card. You can also connect the Aurender via USB. In this way the signal will bypass the sound card and the receiving unit will take control of the clock tasks. Aurender works differently from the usual servers in that it uses a regular 2TB hard drive in combination with an SSD drive. The 2TB disc contains music files and is read in solid-state memory for playback. This has several advantages. First, the boot time is minimized, even when the hard drive is in sleep mode, the files in the playback cue start immediately. Secondly, there is absolutely no noise emanating from the fence. Not that the normal disk is noisy though: even with it running you can hardly hear it. A soft whirr is all you'll ever hear, and even when you're standing within 2 meters away. In comparison, the Meridian MD600 is incredibly noisy. The third advantage of solid-state memory playback is in sound quality. Oh, and the motherboard is also convection-cooled: no fans. Operational control is limited to the iPad app called Aurender Conductor and the prev/fwd/play/pause buttons on the front panel. There is no infrared remote control. Personally I would like to see the menu control from the front panel and the infrared remote control at least of the playlist, but the way the control is done via iPad is really something else. Meridian takes note: the database is actually stored on the iPad itself, providing incredibly fast access to all data. Because it works, you'll just have to update the information after adding new music to Aurender's hard drive, but it's a quick and easy task and just requires you to wait a couple of minutes and it will be done automatically or, if you're the impatient type (like me), you can go into the options on the iPad and select the manual update. It takes less than a minute. Since information and artwork are stored on the iPad itself, browsing is much faster than competing products. Meridian with its very fast Sooloos system is also a little slower, especially you browse the album covers on your iPad. Incidentally, when you use the Aurender's built-in drive to play on a networked computer, access times are also very fast: even with the disc fluttering, the music will play in seconds. On this note: unlike Sooloos system, the Aurender has an open architecture. You can freely copy files to it and back using a networked computer or USB stick connected to USB, disk, or CD ROM drive. Importing music is as simple as dragging and dropping. Aurender will play all popular audio formats natively and does not alter files or their attributes in any way. All it does is index them and send the database to the iPad. You are free to use all the naming conventions or directory structure you like. Aurender will search for metadata in tags and categorize accordingly. Unlike Meridian, this works perfectly, even for incomplete albums or individual tracks. (Sooloos only works accurately when importing entire CDs) Also: in addition to regular tags such as artist, album and track etc., there is a second row of filters in the iPad app that allows you to directly select the folders you have created in the root. This way you are completely free to browse custom selections by folder and still be able to filter by tags. Of course there is also a smart search feature that works quickly (remember: the database is stored on the iPad) and reliably. Another area where the Aurender app for iPad excels is the playlist feature. In a way it combines the best of Meridian and PS Audio. It has Meridian's short access times and fast browsing, but it also offers the extended playlist options of PS Audio PWD and more. For example, while you can create a playlist and store it with Meridian, you can only do so from the currently playing section. Then, to create a list, you'll need to upload your selection track by track, then save it to a playlist. If you're just playing music, feel something you like, and want to add to an existing playlist, you'll need to stop playing, upload the playlist you want to save to, find the track again, add it to the list, and save it again. With Aurender you can simply save a track to a new or existing playlist from any location, even without interrupting the music currently playing. When you add a song to the playlist, you have the option to play now, add ahead, or add to the end. There are quite common functions that Meridian, Linn and PS Audio also offer. But again there is something more: for example, when you add the track to the end of the current playlist, the list briefly scrolls down, highlights the newly added track, and scrolls back to the currently playing track. That's exactly how you want it to work. In addition, you can also choose to replace the current signal with your new selection. Well done. There are more than 20 display and shown are just a few of them. In the header I have already mentioned the front panel displays. These are actually high-resolution OLED displays and an extremely wide viewing angle. You can switch between modes from the front panel or iPad app. Ipad, modes include level meters in blue (McIntosh-like-), (Accuphase-like-) yellow, and plain text. The information offered is very complete, including artist, title, status bar, elapsed time, remaining time, sampling frequency, bitrate, and file format. Again, very nice. The installation is a moment. Network connections work quickly and reliably. The iPad automatically finds the Aurender and after entering the code that appears on the Aurender display, the two seem paired for life because they have not lost the connection, not once! I could keep talking about the feature, but that would have spaced a lot more and probably brought hell from more than a few readers. In addition, there is more than enough information to find about this elsewhere on the web, for example on your computer's excellent Audiophile site. I leave it to that and proceed to the question of sound quality. Compared to a Windows computer running HiFace EVO and Levinson 360S DAC First, let's compare the sound of the Aurender to that of my main Windows computer. The Aurender is connected to dac Mark Levinson #360S with a Wireworld Gold Starlight III+ coaxial digital cable. The Windows computer plays exactly the same files, directly from the aurender's internal disk. I use Winamp 5 with kernel streaming into an external USB-Spdif converter in the shape of an M2Tech HiFace EVO. From there the signal flows over the ST glass in the same Dac Levinson 360S. It should be a fair enough comparison. The difference is obvious: while the computer sounds very beautiful: full and fluid, compared to the Aurender directly in the DAC the computer also sounds blurry and devoid of PRAT and dynamic differentiation. The Aurender is crunchier but without getting hard, yelled or edgy. Its highs are very pure, open, airy, precise, but also fluid. Its bass is probably less full than that of the computer, but this is probably a subjective issue arising from its less focused nature, making the bass fuller. And in fact, the Aurender goes just as deep, but it's just more optimistic and articulate. In addition, the Aurender has better focus, and the imaging between speakers and acoustic sounds are more woody, more visceral, and real. The computer may be more lenient, but the Aurender is more real. Mind you, this is without further comparison with Levinson or Meridian CD players, PS Audio PWD MKII or Meridian 818. To be sure, I also compared Windows playback of the same file from its built-in hard drive instead of streaming over the network connection from the Aurender. There was a difference but it was light. When played from the built-in unit, the computer sounded a little more relaxed, less pinched in the mid-range. Otherwise the difference Small. In any case, this did not turn the computer into an Aurender. Compared to Meridian 818 (Sooloos) Reproduction of the same tracks on Meridian 818 in the mode after importing to Meridian Media Drive 600 reveals that while the Aurender-Levinson combo played very well and better than the computer, the Meridian combo sounds much better in almost every aspect. More importantly, there is a much larger sound stage with better stratification and detection, and the image is really free from the speakers, while with the Aurender-Levinson combination the image is comparably flat and less engaging. So, maybe the Aurender-Levinson combo wasn't the best match possible? Changing the Levinson for the PWD MKII With the Aurender playing in the coaxial entrance of the PWD PS Audio PWD, the game changes. There's a safer sound with a larger stage and more engagement. The shade is much better than through the Levinson. I'm already starting to like the Aurender. But I still lack a little bit of engagement and depth of staging. By changing the MKII PWD for meridian 818 (DAC) Meridian 818 is not only a final area of Sooloos: it is also a 50-effect DAC. With Aurender playing in its coaxial digital input, the game really changes. Now I feel the great sound stage of which the Meridian combo is capable, but coming from the Aurender. This is a well-opened and fluid sound and is engaging. But when you return to the Meridian-Meridian combo in Sooloos mode, it becomes clear that there is still a perceived difference between real music and computer-derived music. Even now that the Aurender presents the music on a wide stage, with excellent PRAT, mid-band opening, and high-end liquidity, the Sooloos combo remains more engaging. It is not a question of detail or openness, but something that is difficult to describe. It is similar to real acoustic instruments compared to digitally sampled instruments. The former only looks more real, although the latter may seem more accurate. Going USB Aurender also offers USB playback in any USB DAC. This bypasses the sound card with its special OCXO watch and derives the signal directly from the motherboard. Connecting Aurender with a KingRex Unanimous uART USB cable to the PS Audio PWD allows for an unexpected jump in performance! Now there was the stratification of the sound stages I was looking for. With it excitement, low grain, intimacy and fluidity of highs and airiness. Going back and forth between spdif and USB produced consistent results, USB that sounds much more engaging and real, spdif playing artificial in comparison. Just to make sure I didn't just appreciate the excellent USB features of the PWD, I also connected the Macbook with the same cable and played the same files in iTunes using PureMusic. Yes, soundstaging is similar, but the Aurender constantly sounds more acoustic, more dynamic and more precise. The Macbook is a airier but compared to the Aurender it looks more electronic because of it, the Aurender the Aurender more real, more credible. Compared to the PWD MKII in streaming mode You would almost forget that the PWD is also a superb streamer, but since I am comparing everything with everything, I also listened to the PWD in streaming mode, using a Synology NAS. The resulting sound is comparable to when using Aurender via USB, but slightly darker and with slightly fuller bass. It seems that the Aurender compensates for the inherent darkness of the PWD treble and the light grain. But the difference is not big enough to matter much. Both solutions look great and would tone to the music played if one or the other would be a better match. I'd say it's a tie. And that's saying something! Congratulations to Aurender. Listening to the Levinson CD player As a quick reference, I also listened to the Levinson 390S CD player. From the finger point of view it is very similar to the Meridian 818-MD600 combo: musical, fluid and engaging. However, it doesn't have the meridian's huge sound stage, nor its low-level details. It also doesn't have the sublime PRAT and Aurender dynamics when combined with the PWD MKII via USB. However, the CD is nice, being a bit smoother and more indulgent. Conclusion The CD player aside and focusing on streamers at hand, I had a hard time choosing between the Aurender-USB-PWD MKII combination and the Meridian Sooloos combo. The first is more lively and dynamic, with real slam, power and excitement. It looks a lot like a Wadia and it's a familiar sound, which I really like. The latter is more lenient in nature. The highs are smoother and more delicate, the mid-range is richer and less shouted, and the bass a little thinner, but more agile and agile. Finally, the latter combo manages to create an even larger and more intimate sound field. I can understand how a well-known English hifi magazine came to the conclusion that Meridian Sooloos sounded slightly rounded or soft. But the same goes for my Levinsons and many other CD players. With many CDs, having an indulgent CD player is not a bad thing. However, there is much to be said for aurender that sounds more accurate. But I don't hear any more details with the Aurender than with the Meridians. It's more of Meridian that's more continuous than the Aurender which is more start-stop. Although I am on my way to the Meridian due to its gentle, full, fluid sound, always engaging, I also liked the devil of the Aurender-PWD MKII combination. If the money wasn't an item, I'd probably keep the Aurender around as an alternative to the Sooloos combo. It seems foolish to combine the 6000 euro Aurender with the 5200 euro MKII PWD and not even use the streaming capabilities of the latter. But together this is still less than meridian combined costs, and adds so much flexibility that I could almost as natural partners. Don't forget that the Aurender offers user-friendly operation, rivaling Sooloos and improving it in a couple of aspects. This is something that can't be achieved with a homemade server, let alone the fact that it probably won't play as good. But I'm sure there will be other USB DACs that are a good match. The Ayre QB9, for example, could create a superbly detailed and open sound. But there are so many USB DACs around and you're bound to find a really good one for less than 2500-3000 euros. If you can find one that sounds as good as the PWD MKII, then you have a winning combination that challenges the best Sooloos has to offer for much less money. Now, considering that spdif always seems to take its toll, I would be in favor of trying to avoid it if you can and use USB instead, as long as the DAC has a good USB implementation. That makes me think... if only the Aurender was available in a USB-only version, without the supposedly expensive sound card, and 1000 euros off, then it would be even more irresistible! Wait, something like this already exists, in the shape of the Aurender A10. It has similar specifications but no clock controlled by the oven. I would be curious to find out if it works just as well as the S10 with USB. For now, the S10 is the best built-in server I've ever come across. November 2015 Update Meanwhile, I changed components, configurations and configuration locations and listened to many music servers. Recently the S10 was part of my setup again because the friend took it with him. A full report goes too far for this addendum, but it is important to note that I believe that the S10 still works very well. Particularly noteworthy are its performance using its spdif outputs. When I wrote the initial review, I found that they sounded more technical than usb output. This time I'm not so sure anymore. As I have already discovered using dac Jeff Rowland Aeris, the use of spdif is not necessarily always a limiting factor. Also: using the connected DAC EC Designs Mosaic NOS (via Toslink no less), the Aurender S10 looks really stellar. Once again, things in the audio proved relative. Now, can you guess what I'm curious about? Did someone say N10? S10 - It's important to consider NAS playback According to the manual the Aurender also plays ball with an external NAS, but I couldn't make it work. I can see my Synology but I can't browse its contents. On that note: I read that while it should work, even if it does, there is no advantage of the iPad database. Apparently you can only navigate at the file structure level. But that doesn't matter as far as I'm concerned. The built-in unit is large enough not to set a limit on many music lovers. In addition that development hasn't stopped, and with the Aurender that's what it is, theoretically it can always be updated to add features. automatically copy the files from the usb stick or CD ROM drive Although the manual mentions that it will work, you need to make sure that all files are marked correctly and that an Internet connection is available, otherwise incorrect information may come out. Progress cannot be verified, and changes can only be made after the import process, from a computer on the network. It is therefore preferable to rip and tagging in advance on a computer (Windows or Mac) and copy the files directly from that computer. This way you also have control over the fusion of artists and so on. OLED display Displays have excellent resolution and a hugely wide viewing angle and the fact that you can choose between text information and two-meter styles is great, but the way VU meter animation is implemented requires a bit of work. For one the response time is very slow and even the framerate seemingly low. Secondly, the needle moves in such a way that physically it would only be possible if the penno was half a meter below the unit. Of course this doesn't matter to music and it's really a controversial point. But for me it beilites an otherwise fantastic product. The fact that it could potentially be easily fixed by a software update made me decide to publish this issue anyway. Associated equipment details: Aurender App version: 1.1.38 Aurender System Software version: 1.0.92 Read also Aurender N10 N10