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£30 / \$50



Maker Says

👉 Outstanding sonic performance with variable phono line out and dedicated headphone amplifier
IQaudio

IQAUDIO PI-DAC+

Related

AUDIOPHONICS I-SABRE DAC ES9023

The DAC from Audiophonics is a similar price to the Pi-DAC+, but it lacks a headphone output. It uses the Sabre ES9023 DAC instead of the Texas Instruments/ Burr Brown DAC in the Pi-DAC+, and includes a pass-through GPIO connector so you can stack additional boards.



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audiophonics.fr/en

Any Raspberry Pi becomes an audiophile music streamer with this high-resolution DAC and headphone amplifier

Even a standalone Pi makes a very decent music streamer, but add a high-quality DAC and it becomes a true audiophile device. The IQaudio Pi-DAC plus is a HAT-compliant board which uses the I²S interface for optimal transmission of digital audio between the Pi and the DAC. Once fitted, you get analogue output from either two phono sockets, for connection to an amplifier, or a 3.5mm headphone socket, along with additional pinouts for adding optional features.

No soldering required

The board comes without any instructions, but you can find these on the IQaudio website. No soldering is required, and it works with Raspberry Pi A+, B+, and 2. You need to screw the supplied spacers to the Pi to support the board, then you simply connect it to the Pi's GPIO board, screw it down gently, and that's that.

IQaudio can also supply a case, an acrylic affair that has suitable cut-outs for the Pi-DAC+ ports.

Once assembled, you can download a number of audio-centric distributions that have Pi-DAC+ drivers built in – including Volumio, RuneAudi, and PiCorePlayer – or follow the directions to add support to an existing installation. There is also a preconfigured Raspbian image on the IQaudio site. We used Volumio 1.55, which worked perfectly. The music source can be anything from files on a NAS, to a streaming service such as Spotify, or a directly attached USB hard drive.

Excellent sound

The DAC sounds excellent, powered by a Texas Instruments PCM5122 DAC at resolutions up to 24-bit/192kHz. From a sonic point of view, a Pi equipped with a DAC like this can hold its own with far more exotic and expensive company. We were also impressed

with the headphone output: tested with a pair of Sennheiser HD600 headphones, the sound was superb, with the clarity and spaciousness that you get from the best audio.

Expansion options at extra cost include attaching a rotary volume control or an IR sensor for remote volume control. The Pi-AMP+ is 2x20W stereo amplifier which attaches to the top of the board. You can also use the supplied optional right-angled header, designed to be soldered underneath the Pi-DAC+ to access the Pi's GPIO signals.

Last word

Great sound and the inclusion of a headphone amplifier make the Pi-DAC+ a recommended accessory for music-loving Pi enthusiasts.

