



## Valve Audio Devices launches DAC-10 – a valve Digital to Analogue Converter (DAC) offering the very latest DSD connectivity

For immediate release - Welton, Northamptonshire - Valve Audio Devices (VAD), a new British innovator in high-end valve audio design, has launched its debut offering: the DAC-10 digital to analogue converter. Designed and hand-built in the UK, at launch two versions are available; PCM only (DAC-10 – UK SRP £6499.95) or PCM and DSD (DAC-10 DSD – UK SRP £6999.95). Both models are available in either piano lacquer gloss black or silver.



Valve Audio Devices (VAD) DAC-10

VAD's first product is a **true dual mono design based around VAD's own 24bit dual DAC circuitry**, which is coupled to its bespoke designed **triode valve analogue stage**. Featuring RCA COAX, BNC, Toslink optical and AES/EBU (standard model only) inputs, the DAC-10 is fully featured for any digital audio application. For those wanting to hear back the very best digital files available, **DSD connectivity is included via a separate USB connection in the DAC-10 DSD**, in place of the AES/EBU socket on the standard model.

Based on VAD's own 'Sound Pure Design', both models of the DAC-10 feature **virtual signal pass through circuits**, with zero low-pass or high-pass filtering in the audio frequency range or any up-sampling in the digital domain. Unique to the design, **the SPDIF digital processing includes a HF Triode valve in its circuit** and the built-in **32-bit/192kHz asynchronous USB** is connected via i2S transmission standard, for the very purist data transmission possible.

The **triode valve analogue output stage operates in pure Class A** and is point-to-point engineered for the very best performance possible. Featuring **NOS (New Old Stock) valves**, the stage consists of a pair of **6SN7 drivers**, a pair of **CV574 rectifiers** and a pair of **6N6P double triode valves**, all of which have been selected and matched for reliability and robustness. To personalise the sound, VAD encourages experienced users to 'valve roll' the 6SN7 drivers and CV574 rectifiers to suit and is happy to recommend alternatives based on a users tonal preference. Wired in pure Class A, output is via a stereo pair of RCA single-ended and XLR balanced analogue outputs.

/cont

To precisely match the output of the DAC-10 to any pre or integrated amplifier, a specially designed **direct-coupled remote-controlled analogue gain control** is fitted to the front panel. For digital-only systems, this gain control can also facilitate direct connection to power amplifiers.

As with all audio products, power supplies are extremely important and, with the DAC-10, VAD has paid particular attention by not only **separating out the digital and analogue power supply sections but also the left and right channels**. All power supplies are designed for the specific application, are choke loaded and feature inductors, polymer and film capacitors and 'series' resistor-less components to provide the purest power flow possible.

The unique VAD casework is designed as a **monocoque structure** with the aim of giving the circuitry an **extremely high mechanical rigid base, EMI & RFI screening and vibration damping**. Polymer coated with additionally polyurethane to 'silence' it from any mechanical ringing, the only structural parts fitted with screws are the aluminium top cover and removable valve cover. It is also directly fully grounded via the safety 'earth' pin in the fused IEC socket. Direct grounding provides the highest electrical safety and means that the EMI/RFI screen really is a 'screen', not just a piece of metal in the way of interferences.

With over 90% of its parts sourced locally and totally hand-built in the UK, VAD uses the latest analogue and digital components mixed with NOS (New Old Stock), with each component selected for its sonic characteristics and reliability. Each unit is soak tested for 24 hours prior to shipping and VAD is so confident with the reliability of its products, that it issues a **seven-year guarantee from date of purchase**.



Valve Audio Devices (VAD) DAC-10 - Front



Valve Audio Devices (VAD) DAC-10 - Back

## Digital Details

### DSD64 playback (DAC-10 DSD only)

The DSD (Direct Stream Digital) module in the DAC-10 DSD replaces the AES-EBU socket of the standard model with an additional USB socket dedicated to DSD playback. To gain the purest DSD stream possible, VAD has designed a system that removes any DSD noise-shaping high frequency carrier present in the signal and 'pink noise' above 30kHz. All DSD data is passed through 1 bit 'driver gates' and then applied to a high precision, double differential FIR (Finite Impulse Response) filter before an additional passive analogue filter. The retrieved pure audio signal is then amplified by vacuum tube triodes. To keep this delicate circuitry separate from any interference, VAD's DSD playback module is free of digital processing and completely separate from the PCM circuitry.

The DSD circuitry is retro-fitable to those wanting to upgrade DAC-10 PCM-only DAC's in the future.

### SPDIF playback (all models)

The SPDIF digital input (RCA COAX, BNC, and Toslink optical (AES/EBU - non DSD model only)) bi-phase signal is interfaced to a high frequency, high input impedance triode valve configured in balanced digital mode and precisely matched to VAD's selected SPDIF receiver in balanced digital mode. This method gives the benefit of the DAC-10 being highly immune to the sometimes-poor electrical quality of the signal from SPDIF transports and/or digital coax interconnects, which can detrimentally influence the sound.

### PCM USB Audio playback (all models)

Both DAC-10 models include a USB 2.0 input with asynchronous (32bit / 192kHz ) high-end interface, which is connected directly via the I2S interface to the PCM decoding stage with two mono converters (left and right). The stage is free of any post filtering and coupled I/V to the dual mono valve analogue output stages.

**The Valve Audio Devices (VAD) DAC-10 is available in both versions now, with the standard DAC-10 having a UK SRP of £6499.00 and the DAC-10 DSD at £6999.00**

For further information, please visit [www.valveaudiodevices.co.uk](http://www.valveaudiodevices.co.uk)

### Contact Details:

Valve Audio Devices Limited  
17 Ashby Road  
Welton  
Northamptonshire  
NN11 2JS  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 1327876673  
Email: [info@electronicsolutions.org.uk](mailto:info@electronicsolutions.org.uk)

### About Valve Audio Devices

The brain-child of Gregor Szymczyk, a British-based Polish born electrical engineer, Valve Audio Devices has had a twenty year journey to launching its first product – the DAC-10. Gregor developed the VAD brand through a relentless personal ambition in pursuit of audio products that stirred the emotions through a real life-like performance.

Based in the village of Welton in Northampton, VAD is a small business with big ambitions. Sourcing over 90% of its component parts from local supplies, each VAD product is carefully crafted by hand to exacting specification.

**For further information, images, interview requests or to try a sample, contact Andy Napthine at Napthine Porter on 07920 425166 / [andy@napthineporter.com](mailto:andy@napthineporter.com) or Alan Porter on 07922 073208 / [alan@napthineporter.com](mailto:alan@napthineporter.com)**



VAD DAC-10 DSD rear input connectors



VAD DAC-10 rear input connectors