

ear in



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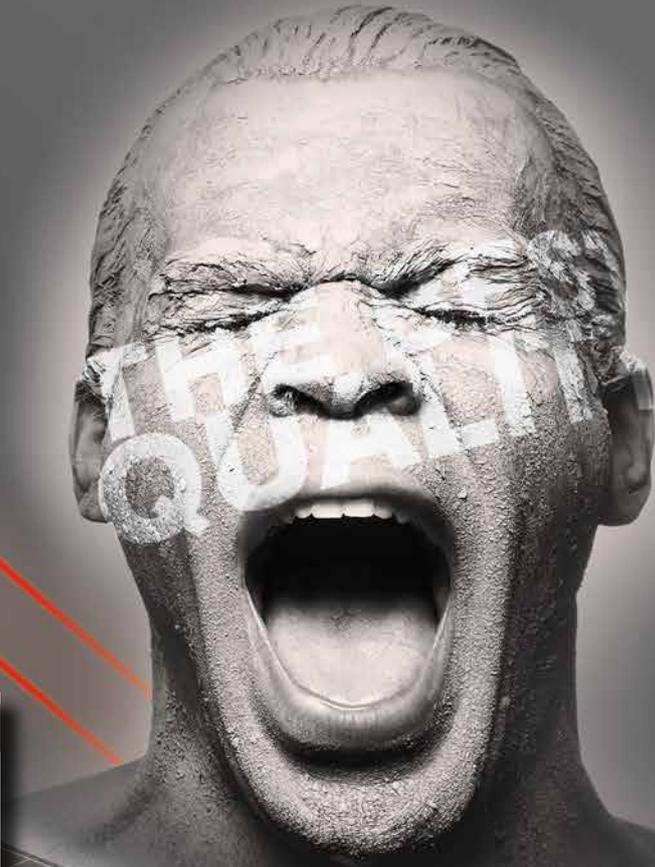
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Kennerto



Oehlbach XXL DAC Ultra

ear in Entry-level **1,2**

Das Kopfhöreremagazin 12-1/2015

Price/performance **very good**



Oehlbach® XXL DAC Ultra
Sound XXL, size M, price S
 Recommendation by ear in 12-1/2015

An increasing number of audio equipment manufacturers are coming to rely on the expertise of cable specialists, as they realise that cables have a significant influence on sound quality. It therefore stands to reason that a cable specialist should bring a D/A converter to the market. Even better when there's a reasonable headphone jack on board as well.

Oehlbach has long since been one of the top names when it comes to high quality cables. As the company is part of the Audiovox Group, which also owns several renowned electronics specialists, we can assume that synergy effects have been utilised here.

When it comes to its name, the first thing that becomes apparent is that the XXL refers to its inner values. With dimensions of 155 x 50 x 200 mm (W x H x D), the housing of the XXL® DAC Ultra is at most an „M“. Thanks to an asynchronous USB input and high quality Burr-Brown converters inside the unit, it is able to process music data to a sampling depth of 384 kHz/32 bit. It is also capable of receiving digital data via an RCA or optical connection. In addition, it also features an analogue input in the form of a pair of RCA jacks. What makes it particularly interesting for headphone fanatics is that it is equipped with two headphone outputs in the form of standard 6.3 mm stereo jacks.

It also reproduces the analogue signal via a (non-volume-regulated) Line output. This enables it to be connected to a hifi system as a source device.

There's no secret when it comes to connection and operation. The power is supplied via an external power adapter. Anyone wanting to reproduce data exceeding 96 kHz via a Windows computer will need to install the driver from the supplied CD-ROM.

The XXL® DAC Ultra gets down to business in a spirited manner. I must admit: I'm not impressed by many reasonably priced DACs in terms of their dynamics. The small Oehlbach unit, however, definitely doesn't do anything wrong in this regard. It produces a lot of drive and verve. In terms of sound it provides no cause for complaint and its resolution is also well above average in its class. Excellent!

Price/performance: Very good

+ Sound: 1.0

+ Configuration: 1.8

+ Operation: 1.6

Conclusion:

„With its XXL® DAC Ultra, cable specialist Oehlbach has made an excellent debut in the world of D/A converters/headphone amplifiers: Sound XXL, size M, price S!“

