

DM36 DAC Module Design Brief

The DM36 is a completely new and thoroughly designed digital to analog converter, utilising an ESS ES9068A chipset that incorporates the critically acclaimed ESS patented HyperStream®II architecture, QUAD DAC™ technology, Time Domain Jitter Eliminator, and advanced SABRE HIFI® technology, thereby significantly improving overall performance over its predecessor DM35, providing a sound that is more richly detailed and lifelike, with more precise three dimensionality within a larger soundstage.

All Primare modular models benefit from the addition of this new board, resulting in DM36 replacing the previous DM35 DAC in our modular models, resulting in the new model's name designating the inclusion of the new DAC module as listed below:

- I25 DAC DM36
- I25 PRISMA DM36

- I35 DAC DM36
- I35 PRISMA DM36

- PRE35 DAC DM36
- PRE35 PRISMA DM36

Up-Sampling

A new feature found in the DM36 is the PCM up-sampling option, which when the setting is enabled allows 16/44.1 and 24/48 kHz signals to be up-sampled to 24/88.2 kHz and 24/96 kHz respectively for improved internal digital conversion and digital output, noting that 24/96 kHz and 24/192 kHz files will not be up-sampled regardless of setting.

MQA

Additionally, the DM36 provides full MQA processing capabilities with both Prisma and Primare CD sources.

This means that, with the associated Prisma application update, embedding both Qobuz and Tidal, the Prisma models listed above with the DM36 module will allow for the final MQA unfold to 384 kHz when playing Tidal Master files. Noting that for all other Prisma models, including those using the DM35 DAC module, the update will allow for the first full MQA unfold to resolution up to 96 kHz, Qobuz resolution up to 192 kHz, and gapless playback for both platforms.

In our CD players and transports, MQA CD playback is supported with CD15 Prisma DD15, CD35 Prisma, and DD35 when using Toslink optical or RCA coaxial digital out connection to the DM36.

MQA indication in the DAC only versions of I25, I35 or PRE35 with DM36 the OLED display will show:

- MQA – reflecting MQA
- MQA. – reflecting MQA STUDIO



In the Prisma versions of I25, I35 and PRE35 the OLED will show as above as well as in the lower left of the Prisma app main page as below:

- MQA GREEN DOT – reflecting MQA



- MQA BLUE DOT – reflecting MQA STUDIO



'MQA Studio' (blue light) gives confirmation directly from mastering engineers, producers, or artists to their listeners, authenticating that the sound you are hearing is exactly as played in the studio when the music was completed and, by implication, that this is also the definitive version of the recording at that point in time.

'MQA' (green light) indicates that although the stream is a genuine MQA file, provenance may be uncertain or that it is not yet the final release.

Note: the DM35 DAC module is now discontinued and no longer available either separately or as part of a DAC or Prisma model.

Specifications

Chip set: ESS ES9068A

Inputs:

- 4 x TOSLINK (optical) up to 192kHz/24 bit
- 2 x RCA up to 192kHz/24 bit
- 1 x USB-B up to 384kHz/32 bit; DSD 256/11.2MHz

Digital Output: 1 x RCA

- Analog input = 96kHz output
- Digital input = pass through, if up-sampling is disabled

Frequency response:

- 44.1kHz +0,1 / -0,4 dB 20Hz - 20kHz
- 48/96/192kHz +0,1 / -0,2 dB 20Hz-20kHz

Features and specifications subject to change.

