LINA

Discover the latest product series from *dCS*

Stereo Sound Grand Prix 2023

BEST PRODUCT 2023 | High Fidelity

avforums EDITOR'S CHOICE 2023/2024

Stereo Sound BEST BUY COMPONENTS '23→'24

EISA AWARD Best Product 2023-2024 HIGH-END HEADPHONE SOLUTION dCS Lina System

"Astonishingly sophisticated ... the results are outstanding"

hi-fi+

"Stunning'

Expert Imaging and Sound Association

"Astonishingly capable and beautifully realised"

av forums

"A high energy, articulate performer with world-class resolution"

Headfonics

"Truly remarkable...neutral, transparent and highly revealing"

Headfonia

"Can reproduce anything at the highest quality level"

Audiophile Style

INTRODUCING

LINA

Lina is a new product series from dCS: a formidable collection of audio separates, designed to excel in a two-channel system or more intimate headfi setup.

The range compromises three components, available in black or silver, which can be purchased individually or together as a complete playback system.

The Lina Network DAC

A powerful streaming DAC that plays high-resolution audio direct from any digital source

The Lina Master Clock

Provides a master reference signal that synchronises playback components for enhanced audio performance

The Lina Headphone Amplifier

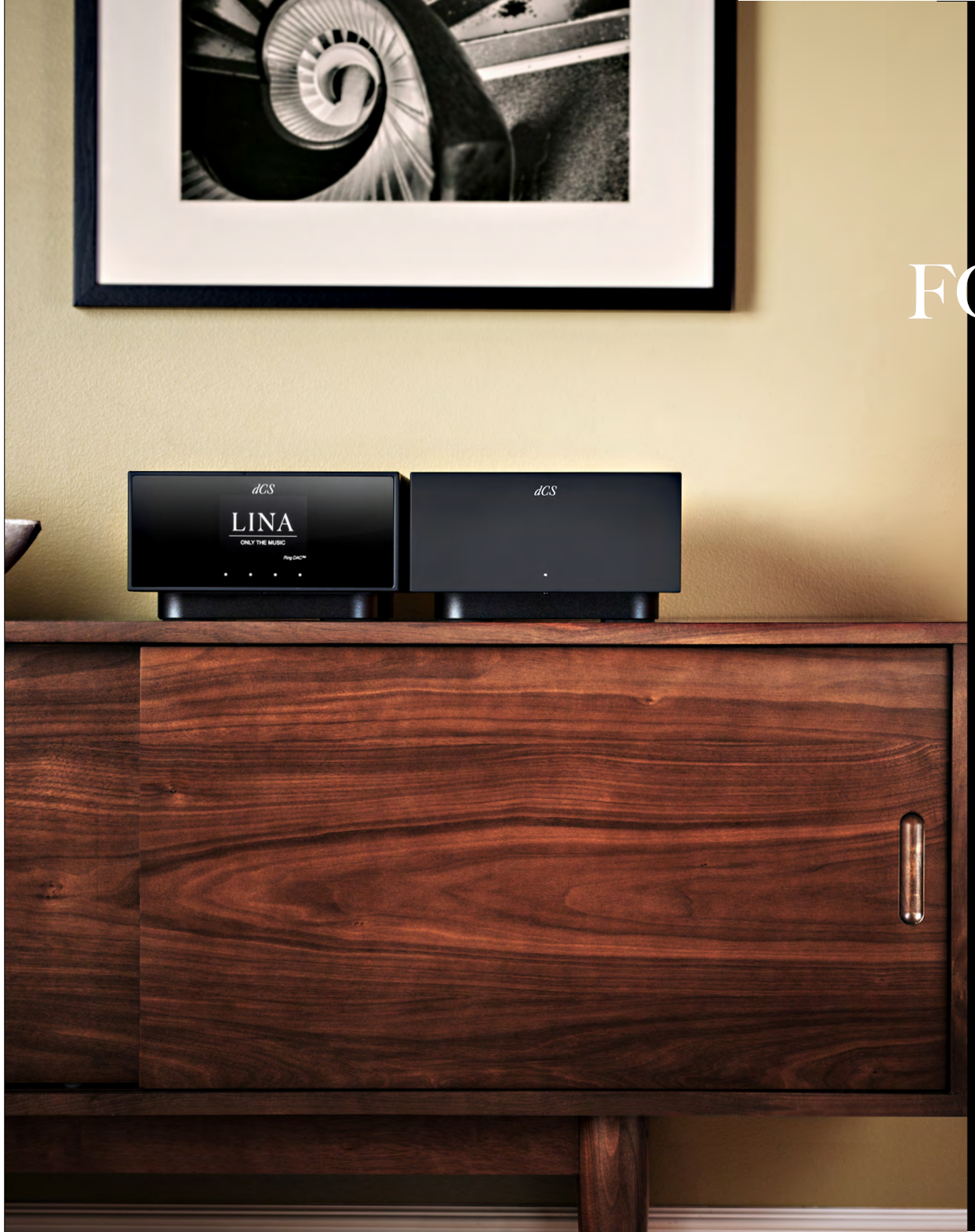
A solid state amp designed to drive even the most demanding headphones to their full potential

A NEW ICON, FROM A WORLD LEADING BRAND

Lina's design draws on dCS's extensive experience of developing pioneering audio products, including the multi-award-winning Vivaldi, Rossini and Bartók series.

The series uses renowned technologies that are unique to dCS – including our Ring DAC™, clocking architecture and Digital Processing Platform – to deliver an outstanding sonic and measured performance.

State-of-the-art electronics and all-new mechanical designs are combined with exceptional craftsmanship, and a technical lineage that dates back to the advent of digital audio, and the creation of the world's first high-resolution digital converters.



DESIGNED FOR ALL SPACES AND SETUPS

Lina's modular format allows you to select the components that best suit your needs and add new products over time, building a system that suits your environment – be it a dedicated media room, professional studio, office or living space – and your desired mode of listening.

The modular design also allows listeners to pair Lina components with other products in the dCS range. A Lina Master Clock, for example, can be added to our Bartók DAC or Bartók Headphone DAC to further enhance performance, while the Lina Headphone Amplifier can be paired with a dCS Rossini or Vivaldi APEX DAC or Player.

HIGH PERFORMANCE, SMALL FOOTPRINT

Lina is our smallest product series yet. It uses ingenious engineering and cutting-edge features to deliver a huge range of features in a compact footprint.

A pioneering flex-rigid circuit board, developed specifically for Lina Network DAC, allows us to provide all the functions you'd expect from a dCS DAC in a smaller chassis, without compromising on sound or performance.

Its compact and minimal appearance and astonishing technical abilities make it the perfect system for both smaller living spaces and larger settings

AN ILLUMINATING PERFORMER

Offering transparency and musicality in equal measure, Lina is designed to reveal the full impact of your music, whatever your setup, preferences and tastes.

It reproduces each aspect of a recording, from the subtlest of sonic details, to the sense of rhythm, movement and harmonic flow, with absolute integrity, providing a performance that feels vividly detailed, effortlessly natural and emotionally compelling.

Always faithful to the music, it is a system built to inspire, delight and entertain – bringing you a deeper connection with the music and artists you love.

METICULOUSLY CRAFTED

Each Lina system is engineered to exacting standards, with the same tight tolerances and meticulous attention to detail as our Vivaldi, Rossini and Bartók ranges. With its sleek, minimal appearance, tactile finishes and exceptional craftsmanship, it has a timeless appeal - reflecting our commitment to building products that last.

Each Lina system is designed and hand-assembled at dCS's Cambridgeshire headquarters and put through a rigorous set of performance tests before shipping, so we can ensure it delivers the highest levels of quality and reliability.

BUILT TO EVOLVE

As with all dCS products, the Lina range is designed with the potential for future upgrades in mind. This is a core part of our design ethos and one of the reason our systems are world-renowned.

The Lina Network DAC uses powerful Field Programmable Gate Arrays [FPGAs] that run on code written by dCS engineers. This means we can continue to enhance its performance and deliver new features and benefits throughout its lifespan.

To date, we have launched two major updates for Lina Network DAC owners. Lina 1.1 brought digital volume control digital volume control and volume lock features, whilst Lina 2.0 brought new filter and Mapper settings plus balance control.

These updates have enabled us to further enhance performance and create an even better experience for Lina owners, giving them more control over the settings on their DAC plus additional features to support listening in a loudspeaker-based setup.

Network DAC

The Lina Network DAC delivers extraordinary sound from all digital sources and audio recordings. Its design combines our renowned playback technologies – including the dCS Ring DAC and Digital Processing Platform – with a wealth of new innovations. Its powerful flex-rigid circuit board enables us to deliver all the features and benefits you'd expect from a dCS system in a much smaller chassis. The result is a powerful, supremely capable product that excels in a vast range of setups and listening environments.

Key Features

- Supports hi-res streaming via Roon, TIDAL, Qobuz, Spotify, Deezer, AirPlay and more
- dCS Ring DAC system ensures sound is reproduced with absolute integrity, for a highly detailed, natural and deeply musical performance
- dCS Expanse technology offers enhanced crossfeed optimisation for a more natural and immersive experience when listening to a wide range of stereo recordings
- Flexible dCS Digital Processing Platform provides unlimited scope for future upgrades.
- Touch screen UI with customisable menu provides seamless navigation [system can also be controlled via dCS Mosaic app]


ANALOGUE OUT
UNBAL. RIGHT
UNBAL. LEFT
BAL. RIGHT
BAL. LEFT
DIGITAL IN
SPDIF 1
SPDIF 2
USB 2
USB 1
NETWORK
SPDIF 3
PUSH
NEUTRIK
AES 1
AES 2
dCS
LINA Network DAC
IN 1
IN 2
WORDCLOCK
POWER LINK
FUSE: T 1A L 250V

Headphone Amplifier

Our powerful solid state, Class AB amplifier is engineered to drive a vast range of headphones - from planars to sensitive IEMS - to their full potential. With its low noise floor, wide bandwidth, vast dynamic range, and excellent linearity, it delivers all of the sonic benefits you'd expect from a dCS product, and is designed to complement virtually any headfi setup.

Key Features

- Class AB design with DC servo system delivers high power efficiency and excellent linearity
- Solid state design delivers consistent, clean performance
- Solid aluminium chassis minimises the risk of electromagnetic interference for enhanced audio performance
- Choice of inputs caters to a variety of sources and audio setups
- Includes 3 headphone outputs. 1 x dual 3-pin balanced XLR, right and left channel. 1 x single 4-pin balanced XLR. 1 x single 1/4'' (6.35mm)headphone jack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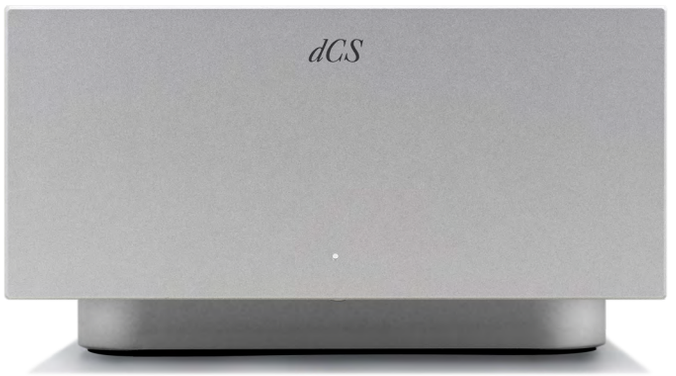


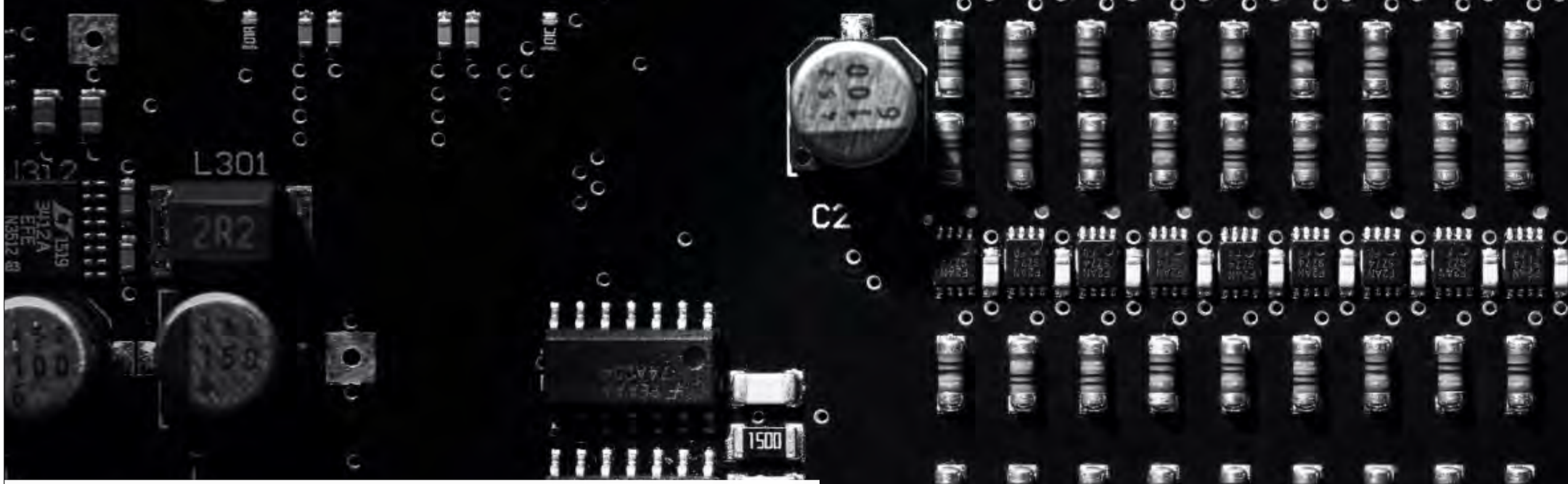
Master Clock

The Lina Master Clock is informed by our extensive experience of developing master clocks for professional and home use. Our research has shown us that adding a dedicated master clock to an audio system can enhance all aspects of sound, from detail and imaging to rhythmic movement and flow. The Lina Master Clock utilises dual crystal oscillators and proprietary dCS clocking technologies to deliver a precise and stable clocking reference for all audio formats and frequencies. Paired with the dCS Lina Network DAC, Bartók DAC or Bartók Headphone DAC, it provides an even more immersive and engaging experience.

Key Features

- Oven-controlled crystal oscillators (one for 44.1kHz based audio sample rates and one for 48kHz) ensure accurate clocking for all audio samples and frequencies
- Allows Lina Network DAC to be locked to a single master signal for enhanced audio performance
- Provides a significant increase in sound quality when streaming or listening via USB
- Minimises risk of jitter and timing irregularities which can affect playback
- Standalone design with isolated chassis and power supply protects clock signal from external interference


dCS
LINA Master Clock
POWER LINK
OUT 1
OUT 2
WORDCLOCK
FUSE: T 1A L 250V



dCS TECHNOLOGIES

The Lina product range benefits from a suite of technologies that are unique to dCS, including the renowned dCS Ring DAC™ and our novel headphone processing platform, dCS Expanse. These technologies are the culmination of intensive research and development. Through continuous innovation, our engineers have developed a technical DNA that allows us to overcome the limits of conventional hardware and software and deliver an unrivalled sonic and technical performance across the entire dCS product range.

This focus on performance-led innovation, coupled with our meticulous craftsmanship, is what sets dCS systems apart. With each new product we create, we continue to test the limits of audio engineering, developing novel solutions that enhances people's experience of listening to music. Take a look at some of our innovations below, or visit dcsaudio.com/innovation to learn more about the technologies that drive dCS Lina.

The Ring DAC ™

The Ring DAC is the proprietary digital-to-analogue conversion system found inside all dCS DACs. This integral component was designed from the ground up to minimise errors and variations that can cause distortion, and deliver a performance where all aspects of sound are resolved—from the finest of musical details, to the sense of time and harmonic movement.

This pioneering design was first developed for our professional audio products, and has been continually honed and refined ever since. Over three decades on, it remains renowned for its excellent linearity, class-leading distortion performance, and unique ability to capture the full range of artistry, detail and emotion contained within a recording.

Learn more at dcsaudio.com/ring-dac

Digital Processing Platform

Our latest-generation processing platform pushes the boundaries of measured performance in digital audio, using a powerful FPGA to deliver all of its functions and features, including audio processing, I/O encoders and decoders, oversampling, filtering, volume adjustment, user interface, and memory.

Unrivalled in its intelligence and versatility, it provides us with complete control over signal processing operations. As the platform can be endlessly reconfigured and updated, it also gives us the ability to bring even the most ambitious ideas to life, and continue delivering new features, updates and enhancements throughout a product's lifespan.

Learn more at dcsaudio.com/digital-processing-platform

Expanse

Expanse is a novel processing platform that brings the headphone experience closer to the studio listening experience. Its unique processing method replicates the effects of studio listening—where sound is projected into the space around us, rather than inside our heads—without altering the reverberation in a recording or affecting a system's performance.

This novel technique allows us to recreate the original soundscape in a recording, while preserving the unique tone and timbre, resulting in a heightened sense of realism when listening to a wide range of music. This optional feature was created to provide a more immersive and natural alternative to traditional crossfeed optimisation, and is exclusive to the dCS Lina Network DAC and Bartók Headphone DAC.

Learn more at dcsaudio.com/expanse

Mosaic

The dCS Mosaic Control app provides a unified playback and control interface for all dCS owners, bringing together music from multiple platforms and sources in a single, intuitive interface. Designed to remove all of the complexities associated with multi-source playback, it offers a simple and elegant way to access the music you love and control the settings and configurations on your dCS system.

In addition, the dCS Mosaic Processor supports high-resolution streaming via Roon, TIDAL Connect, Spotify Connect, and Apple AirPlay—allowing listeners to access their music however they choose.

Learn more at dcsaudio.com/mosaic

Clocking

All dCS DACs, upsamplers and network music players feature their own internal clock systems. We also manufacture dedicated master clocks, which can be synced to a DAC or other product's internal clock for enhanced precision and long-term stability.

Each aspect of our clocking technology, from the crystal oscillators that generate the clock signals at the heart of units, to the low noise, low skew clock distribution systems that deliver signals exactly as they were generated, has been carefully engineered for maximum precision, consistency, and reliability. Thanks to our pioneering developments in clocking, we are able to deliver world-leading levels of accuracy and jitter control and ensure that no subtle details, timing or spatial cues are lost during the playback process.

Learn more at dcsaudio.com/clocking

Filters

All audio DACs require a range of filtering and processing operations in order to reconstruct audio wave forms. At dCS, we've developed a range of bespoke filters for different audio formats and sample rates. This means customers with a dCS DAC are able to select the filter that best suits their chosen audio format and listening preferences.

The Lina Network DAC offers a choice of six filters, in addition to three Mapper settings. These can be accessed via the Lina DAC's UI or the dCS Mosaic Control app.

Learn more at dcsaudio.com/filters

Further reading

Visit dCS Lina system pages **here.**

Read the latest Lina reviews here.

More information about dCS and our range of products is available at **dcsaudio.com**

Marketing assets can be found **here.**

dCS

ONLY THE MUSIC

Lina System Specifications

Lina Network DAC Specifications

Product Dimensions / Weight	121.5mm (H) x 220mm (W) x 339mm (D) 7.4kg
Shipping Dimensions / Weight	320mm (H) x 360mm (W) x 530mm (D) / 10.3kg
Finish	Black machined aluminium with crystal LED display
Electronics	• dCS Ring DAC and Digital Processing Platform on flex ridged PCB • Stream Unlimited S800 • Automatic voltage switching
Digital Inputs	• 2 x AES/EBU on 3 pin XLR 44.1-384kS/s • 1 x S/PDIF BNC Coax 44.1-192kS/s • 1 x S/PDIF on RCA 44.1-192kS/s • 1 x Toslink 44.1-96kS/s • 1 x USB Type B 44.1-384kS/s, PCM and DSD, DSDx2 in Async Mode • 1 x USB Type A connector for mass storage devices (navigated using Mosaic)
Analogue Outputs	• 1 x stereo pair 3 pin balanced XLR • 1 x stereo pair unbalanced RCA
Network Interface	RJ-45 connector
Streaming Compatibility Supports the following platforms and services:	• UPnP • Qobuz • Deezer • Tidal • Internet Radio • Spotify • Apple AirPlay 2 (support at 44.1 or 48kS/s) • RoonReady
Sample frequencies and formats Supports the following audio formats and sample rates	• 44.1-384kHz • DSD 64, 128 • Native DSD + DoP (input dependent) • FLAC, WAV, AIFF, MQA

Upsampling	Multi-stage DXD oversampling with switchable DSD
Word Clock	• 2 x Word Clock inputs on 75 Ω BNC connectors • Will lock to 44.1-192kHz
Filters	• PCM mode: 2 filters + MQA • DSD mode: 4 progressive filters
Crossfeed Settings	• Standard crossfeed • dCS Enhanced crossfeed (E1) • dCS Enhanced crossfeed (E2)
Power	• IEC inlet & power switch on rear panel • 90-120v & 220-240v, 50/60Hz nominal • Automatic voltage switching • Power synchronised with other dCS control link products (RJ45)
Frequency Response (set to filter 1)	• Fs = 44.1 or 48kS/s +/-0.1dB, 10Hz-20kHz • Fs = 88.2 or 96kS/s +/-0.1dB, 10Hz-20kHz -3dB @ >38kHz • Fs = 176.4 or 192kS/s +/-0.1dB, 10Hz-20kHz -3dB @ >67kHz • Fs = 352.8 or 384kS/s +/-0.1dB, 10Hz-20kHz -3dB @ >100kHz • DSD64 +/-0.1dB, 10Hz-20kHz -3dB @ >90kHz • DSD128 +/-0.1dB, 10Hz-20kHz -3dB @ >100kHz
Residual Noise (6v output setting)	• 16-bit data: Better than –96dB0, 20Hz-20kHz unweighted • 24-bit data: Better than –113dB0, 20Hz-20kHz unweighted
Spurious Responses	Better than –105dB0, 20Hz-20kHz
L-R Crosstalk	Better than –115dB0, 20Hz-20kHz
Included with your Lina Streaming DAC	• 1 x mains cable • 2 x XLR [0.5m] • 1 x Ethernet cable [2m] • 1 x Power Link cable [0.5m]

Lina Master Clock Specifications

Clock Type	Grade 1 Master Clock, with oven-controlled crystal oscillators
Product Dimensions / Weight	121.5mm (H) x 220mm (W) x 339mm (D) / 7kg
Shipping Dimensions / Weight	TBC
Finish	Black machined aluminium
Clock Accuracy	Better than +/-1 ppm when shipped over an ambient temperature range of +5°C to +45°C
Startup Time	Typically 10 minutes to rated accuracy
Word Clock Outputs	• 2 x independently buffered TTL-compatible output on 75Ω BNC connectors • Output 1: fixed at 44.1kHz • Output 2: fixed at 48kHz
Power Link (synchronising on/off state with other products)	2 x RJ45
Power	• 90-120v & 220-240v, 50/60Hz nominal • Consumption 10W
Included with your Lina Master Clock	1 x Mains cable [2m] 1 x Power Link cable [0.5m] 2 x BNC [0.5m]

Lina Headphone Amplifier Specifications

Product Dimensions / Weight	121.5mm (H) x 220mm (W) x 356mm (D) / 7.5kg
Shipping Dimensions / Weight	320mm (H) x 360mm (W) x 530mm (D) / 9kg
Finish	Black machined aluminium
Electronics	• Pure analogue design • Automatic voltage switching
Analogue Inputs	• 1 x stereo pair unbalanced RCA, input impedance 48kΩ • 1 x stereo pair unbuffered balanced XLR, input impedance 16kΩ • 1 x stereo pair buffered balanced XLR, input impedance 96kΩ
Headphone Outputs	• 1 x dual 3-pin balanced XLR, right and left channel • 1 x single 4-pin balanced XLR • 1 x single ¼" (6.35mm) headphone jack
Power Link (synchronising on/off state with other products)	2 x RJ45
Power	90-120v & 230-240v, 50/60Hz nominal
Frequency Response	1Hz-100kHz better than +0/-3dB
THD+N	<0.005% @ 1kHz 6V rms balanced output into 30Ω (80kHz bandwidth)
Channel Separation	Balanced input to balanced output into 30Ω. Better than 100dB @ 1kHz. Better than 80dB, 20Hz–20kHz.
Signal to Noise Ratio	110dB 20Hz-20kHz A-weighted (referenced to 6V rms balanced input and output)

Power Output	• 2x Balanced 2W into 30Ω • 2x Balanced 0.48W into 300Ω • 2x Unbalanced 1.6W into 30Ω • 2x Unbalanced 0.2W into 300Ω
Included with your Lina Headphone Amplifier	1 x mains cable [2m] 1 x Power Link cable [0.5m]