

dCS Bartók

Streaming DAC/Headphone Amp/Preamp



For those not familiar with the dCS house sound, it's fast, goes deep, has an incredibly smooth midrange and extended, clean highs with an overall tonality that tends to be slightly more resolution oriented than warm. The dCS Bartók is imbued with this sonic signature (or lack of one, if you will) and also includes several DSP filters to fine-tune the sonic flavor to go along with the unit's Ring DAC and FPGA-based Digital Processing Platform. Featuring more tech than I could possibly fit in a brief description, I'll just say it handles 24-bit/384kS/s PCM and DSD128 with DXD and DSD upsampling available. The headphone section features an 1/4-inch and balanced headphone outs on the front of the unit with 1.4W rms into 33-Ohms/ 0.15W into 300-Ohms, and output levels that can be set via app/menu to 0, -10, -20, -30dB). It's got every type of digital input going, and as I write in my upcoming review, "The Bartók can be used as the digital source of a two-channel separates system, slotting in as a high-end streaming UPnP DAC/preamplifier with both single-ended and balanced outputs for directly driving a power amp or monoblocs – just add an iOS or Android device to control it – or as the sole device required in a binary-based asynchronous renderer/home headphone rig of impeccable standards." Enough said.