



## COST NO OBJECT DAC OF THE YEAR MOON by Simaudio 680D

**T**he Moon 680D is a streaming DAC and therefore removes the need for a computer in your network audio chain. Plug your ethernet cable into the unit and you get access to Qobuz Sublime+, Tidal Masters, Deezer HiFi and Spotify Connect. Or you can stream from your own NAS or Apple Airplay 2 via Moon's excellent MiND2 streaming hardware. All of which can be controlled using Moon's MiND2 App or through Roon. The large red LED's provided playback information such as file bit rates and track time. You have three light brightness levels to choose from. The DAC will process to PCM 32/384 and DSD to DSD256. The unit is fully MQA certified and Roon Ready. At its core, there beats a heart of pure digital royalty: the ESS Sabre 9028pro DAC chip. It's wired and wireless inputs and outputs are broad enough to make the 680D a complete digital audio nerve centre.

The 680D has been cleverly designed to be both easy to use and easy to update, with both firmware upgrades available through the MiND2 App and the potential for future hardware upgrades as and when they are needed. All of which

means once you have passed through the very long running in time common to most Moon products, you are met with a streaming DAC designed for the long-haul.

In our test, Eric Neff found himself listening to so many recordings, it's difficult to pick out sonic examples of why the player is so good without weaving the music into the mix. "The 680D opens up the song smoothly and allows the band to bring the listener along for a great sonic ride," he says, also noting that "The 680D gave perfect shape to her impressive range while framing it with the crunch and growl of the drop D guitar assaults. The presentation is at times kaleidoscopic and thrilling. Ultimately, I listened to the entire album enthralled by the 680D's wonderful presentation." He concluded by saying that "The 680D is certainly not inexpensive, yet after spending time with it you wonder how much farther could you go for better sound and at what price?" **+**

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