

Product Announcement

Unison Research Unico CD Due Available Now

The valve specialists go digital.

Didcot, Oxfordshire – 23rd February, 2016

With their latest release, Italian valve specialists Unison Research have produced a source device that brings the finest digital technologies together into one enclosure, offering a complete solution for audiophiles who want to get the best from their digital media. The Unico CD Due is so much more than its name suggests. It supports Bluetooth streaming and acts as a comprehensive DAC capable of accommodating any high-end music player, while also acting as a stand-alone CD player.

The hybrid Unico range from Unison Research combines valves with other solid state devices to provide the modern listener with more power and features than traditional valve technology alone can offer. The Unico CD Due joins the range as the new flagship source, and shares the same imposing “three-panel” aesthetic of the range-topping Unico 150 amplifier.



The DAC portion of the CD Due is equipped with USB, S/PDIF, AES/EBU and Toslink inputs, which all route through the built-in ESS Sabre ES9018K2M DAC chip. The USB input uses XMOS technology to handle PCM signals up to 384kHz and DSD signals up to 11,2896MHz (DSD256), effectively encompassing almost every audio format and sample-rate currently available. The more “traditional” digital inputs handle 24-bit/192kHz (24/96 via Optical) PCM signals, allowing a myriad of high-quality sources to be connected with ease.

The CD Due’s Bluetooth functionality allows for wireless streaming from any Bluetooth-enabled smart device. Set-up is simple and the high-quality aptX® chipset employed ensures the best possible audio performance from any connected gadget. Finally, the CD player section uses a premium mechanism and sleek drawer-loading system to neatly integrate into the CD Due’s imposing facade. Internally, the CD mechanism is shielded by a thick metal cover, to avoid interference.

What helps the CD Due stand apart from its competitors is not just its feature set, but its rich, enveloping sound; which owes much of its expression to the valve output stage. The valve stage benefits from Unison Research’s unrivalled knowledge of tube technology. The four ECC83 valves are configured in an innovative totem-pole arrangement with balanced input. This particular layout allows for a high immunity to power supply noise and brings together a “triode” sound with the drive capability of a cathode follower stage. The rest of the board also utilises premium components and shorter signal paths to ensure the ultimate performance, with low distortion and high noise immunity. For even more durability you can also use the CD Due as a transport only, utilising the three digital outputs on the back panel to run with another external DAC.

The CD Due is purpose-designed to separate the digital and the analogue portions of the circuitry. The DAC portion has carefully-managed filtered power distribution to ensure each input works to its maximum ability without any variance or residual noise. This process ensures the ESS Sabre DAC ES9018K2M chip can perfectly carry out its task. The DAC chip boasts a “jitter eliminator” design

with exceptional signal-to-noise ratio (128dB) and ultra-low distortion (0.0003%). The clock system uses a quartz oscillator with high precision and low phase-noise.

The Unico CD Due makes controlling all its features easy, via the supplied RC2 system remote and its 128x64 OLED screen. The screen offers excellent visibility in all lighting conditions, and can even be dimmed or switched off entirely during use. Critical information is displayed on the screen in large fonts, and active features are displayed in smaller text. So it's through the screen that you can also tailor the sound performance to suit. With three switchable filters and even the option to bypass the valves with a "solid-state" output buffer – the CD Due can suit any high-end system or sound preference.

Bring your digital audio together, and enjoy it in the highest quality with Unico CD Due.

SRP £3,200.00

The Unison Research Unico CD Due is available in the UK now in Silver finish.

The Unico CD Due can be special ordered in Black for an additional £100.00 (SRP).

For a list of all approved Unison Research retailers, visit the 'Where To Buy' section of henleydesigns.co.uk

Technical Information

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| Device: | CD Player, Bluetooth Receiver, External DAC |
| Digital Inputs: | 1 x USB Type B (supports up to 32-bit/384kHz or DSD256 (DoP)) 1 x S/PDIF (supports up to 24-bit/192kHz or DSD64 (DoP)) 1 x AES/EBU (supports up to 24-bit/192kHz or DSD64 (DoP)) 1 x Toslink™ (supports up to 24-bit / 96kHz) |
| Bluetooth Receiver: | BT 3.0 |
| Digital Outputs: | 1 x S/PDIF 1 x AES/EBU 1 x Toslink™ |
| CD Transport: | 8829CD-KHM DVD-Loader (only for audio CDs) |
| Digital Filters: | F1 = high slope and linear phase F2 = high slope and minimum phase F3 = low slope and linear phase |
| Digital Stage: | ESS Sabre ES9018K2M DAC with jitter eliminator Ultra-low distortion and ultra-low noise IV converter |
| Analogue Stage: | Double-triode, pure Class A differential totem-pole |
| Valve Complement: | 4 x 12AX7 / ECC83 |
| Analogue Outputs: | 1 x RCA pair (stereo) 1 x XLR pair (stereo) |
| Output Buffer: | Optional "solid-state" buffer |
| Dimensions (W x D x H): | 45 x 38 x 13cm |
| Net Weight: | 10kg |

Notes for Editors

Consumer Contact for Publication

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About Unison Research

Unison Research was founded in 1987 by a small group of audiophile enthusiasts, and since that point the company has garnered a reputation as one of the world's leading valve-focused hi-fi companies. Based in Treviso, Italy, they have a strong focus on audiophile electronics with a particular tendency toward integrated amplifier designs.

The current Unison Research range is represented by the Valve and Unico series, with other accessories including phono stages and headphone amplifiers also available. There's something available for any system, and all products maintain the company's historical reputation of paying due diligence to both sound performance and aesthetic appeal. All internal components and almost all the external parts are locally sourced, while all R&D and assembly is still conducted in house; ensuring each item purchased has been hand-assembled and tested by an expert engineer with an intimate knowledge of good sound.



About Henley Designs Ltd.

Everyone has a different interpretation of what good sound is, and at Henley Designs we're no different. We strive to bring customers the best possible selection of hi-fi equipment from a variety of international manufacturers.

Formed in 1997 as the result of a management buy-out of Ortofon UK, Henley Designs Ltd. are one of the UK's premier distributors of quality hi-fi equipment. The brands we distribute are not only highly-regarded in their own right, but they also share a symbiotic relationship with other brands in our portfolio.

For more information, visit www.henleydesigns.co.uk

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