FOSTEX®

32bit DAC HEADPHONE AMP

32bit DAC

PREMIUM REFERENCE HEADPHONES

HP-A8C HP-A3 TH900

32BIT DAC

Supreme quality converters from Fostex

The 32bit HP-A8C sets a new high watermark for DAC / Headphone Amplifiers. Looking gorgeous with a luxury glass front panel, the HP-A8C features precision designed analog and digital circuitries for exceptional audio reproduction, a wide selection of inputs and outputs and an SDHC card slot for DSD audio playback. This is the unit audiophiles, music creators and mastering engineers have been waiting for.

The HP-A8C joins the HP-A3, a compact DAC which has carved itself quite a reputation since its launch in 2011. Compatible with audio sources up to 24bit/96kHz, the HP-A3 features an integrated headphone amplifier exclusively designed to get the most from a mobile PC audio set-up.

Finally, there's the stunning new TH900 headphones - the first high-end headphones from Fostex featuring a newly designed driver unit with 1.5 tesla (15,000 gauss) magnetic circuit and bio-dynamic 50mm diaphragm, plus traditional Japanese lacquered "Urushi" finished ear housings and 7N OFC cables. A combination which achieves the sonic nirvana of a wide stereo field coupled with crystal clear, un-coloured audio reproduction.

HP-A8C 32bit DAC Headphone Amp

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HP-A8C Main Features

- Precision 32bit D/A converter (Asahi Kasei's AK4399) with 'all-discrete' analog circuitry
- Complies with USB Audio Class 2.0 up to 32bit / 192kHz (24bit on Windows)
- Asynchronous mode via precise TCXO clock*
- Highly precise 'electronic volume' level adjustment
- Large capacity toroidal power transformer
- DSD file reproduction via built-in SD(SDHC) card drive or via USB**
- Selectable between the internal clock and the external clock (except for USB and SD card)
- Built-in x2 and x4 up-sampling functions
- Digital Filter options: conventional "sharp roll-off" or "minimum delay" - developed by Asahi Kasei to eliminate pre-echo
- Direct Out mode bypassing the volume control
- Variable headphone amplifier's gain from 0dB to -12dB in 0.5dB steps for perfect matching with almost any type (& brand) of headphones
- Two front mounted headphone outputs
- Comprehensive input options including: USB, AES/EBU, Coaxial, Optical (x2) and analog RCA
- Choice of digital (Coaxial, Optical) and analog (RCA) outputs
- Dedicated Remote Controller
- Stunning enclosure with glass front and sculptured side panels
- Beautiful white 'high-viz' organic LED display

* (Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator)

** by future firmware update

HP-A3 Main Features

- Bus powered via USB (no need for external AC power unit)
- Compatible with audio sources up to 24bit/96kHz
- High quality analog headphone amp - can be used with any type (or brand) of headphones
- Equipped with high-grade AKM 32bit(*) DAC (Asahi Kasei's AK4390)
- Condensers and OP amp designed exclusively for audio products
- USB / Digital (Optical) input selector
- Headphones / RCA (Analog) output selector
- Doubles as D/D converter from USB digital audio to Optical
- An USB/AC adapter from the shelf can be used for use as an Optical / Analog converter

Note: When using the USB input, the sampling frequency is fixed at 96kHz. Audio file with Fs 32k/44.1k/48kHz will be reproduced by upsampling to 96kHz and the S/PDIF Out is also fixed at 96kHz.

TH900 Main Features

- Neodymium magnetic circuit utilising the magnetic repulsion system with the 1.5 tesla (15,000 gauss) magnetic flux density results in an ultra-wide dynamic range
- Unique "Biodyna" diaphragm* for supreme high resolution sound reproduction
- Ear housings made using Japanese Cherry Birch (Betula Grossa) - the rigid and dense texture means maximum acoustic performance.
- Ear housings finished with traditional "Urushi" lacquer and simply look gorgeous
- Platinum foiled Fostex logos
- Ear pads composed of protein leather made from eggshell membrane for maximum comfort
- 7N grade (99.99999%) OFC (Oxygen Free Copper) cords with duralumin plug

HP-A3 32bit DAC

TH900 Reference Headphones

HP-A8C Specifications

Inputs & Outputs

Input

USB port

Connector:	B type (Standard)
Quantization, Fs:	16/24/32bit (16/24bit on Windows), 44.1/48/88.2/96/176.4/192kHz
Interface:	USB high speed

Digital (Optical)

Connector x 2:	Optical, square
Format:	S/PDIF
Quantization, Fs:	16/24bit, 44.1/48/88.2/96/176.4/192kHz

Digital (Coaxial)

Connector:	RCA Pin
Format:	S/PDIF
Quantization, Fs:	16/24bit, 44.1/48/88.2/96/176.4/192kHz

Digital (AEX/EBU)

Connector:	XLR-3-31 type (Pin2 hot)
Format:	AES/EBU
Quantization, Fs:	16/24bit, 44.1/48/88.2/96/176.4/192kHz

Analog

Connector:	RCA Pin (L, R)

Output

Phones 1,2

Connector:	Stereo phone
Max Output:	700mW (32-ohm loaded)
Opt load Impedance:	16 ohm – 600 ohm
THD:	Less than 0.002% at 1kHz, 32-ohm loaded, 100mW
Frequency response:	10Hz – 80kHz +/-3dB

Analog

Connector:	RCA Pin (L,R)
Opt load impedance:	More than 10k ohm
THD:	Less than 0.002% at 1kHz
Frequency response:	10Hz – 80kHz +/-3dB

Digital (Optical)

Connector:	Optical, square
Format	S/PDIF
Quantization, Fs	16/24bit, 44.1/48/88.2/96/176.4/192kHz

Digital (Coaxial)

Connector:	RCA Pin
Format:	S/PDIF
Quantization, Fs:	16/24bit, 44.1/48/88.2/96/176.4/192kHz

General

Dimensions:	213mm(W) x 78mm(H) x 314mm(D)
Weight:	approx. 3.8kgs
Power Consumption:	24 W
Accessories:	1 x remote controller

Windows Driver Software for HP-A8

HP-A8C complies with USB Audio Class 2.0. In case of use with Windows that has not complied with USB Audio Class 2.0 so far, the driver software for HP-A8C (for Windows XP or later) is necessary, which can be downloaded from the Fostex website. The driver must be installed before the HP-A8 is connected to PC. MacOS (10.6 or later) complying with USB Audio Class 2.0 does not require the driver software.

HP-A3 Specifications

Inputs & Outputs

Input

USB port

Connector:	B type (Standard)
Quantization, Fs	16/24bit, 96kHz
Interface:	USB full speed

Digital

Connector:	Optical, square
Format:	S/PDIF
Quantization, Fs	16/24bit, 32/44.1/48/88.1/96kHz

Output

Phones

Connector:	Stereo phone
Max Output:	100mW (32-ohm loaded)
THD:	Less than 0.01% at 1kHz, 32-ohm loaded, 100mW
Frequency response:	20Hz / 20kHz +-0.3dB (32ohm loaded, 100mW)

Analog

Connector:	RCA Pin
Reference output level:	-10dBV
THD:	Less than 0.01% at 1kHz
Frequency response:	20Hz / 20kHz +-0.3dB

Digital

Connector:	Optical, square
Format:	S/PDIF
Quantization, Fs	16/24bit, 96kHz

General

Dimensions:	108mm(W) x 36mm(H) x 140mm(D)
Weight: approx.	450g
Power	DC5V (via USB port)
Power Consumption:	2.5W
Accessories:	1 x USB cable (1.0m)

TH900 Specifications

General

Type:	Dynamic
Driver:	50mm dia Nd magnet
Impedance:	25 ohm
Sensitivity:	100dB / mW
Maximum Input:	1,800 mW
Reproduction Frequency:	5 – 45k Hz

General

Weight:	400g (excluding the cord)
Cord:	3m Y type 7N-OFC
Plug:	6.3mm dia gold coating stereo phone plug
Accessory:	Headphone stand

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HP-A3 Interfacing

The HP-A3 features USB input and power (no need for an external power supply), optical digital I/O and an analog out on RCA connectors. A single headphone 6mm jack is present on the front panel.

HP-A8C Interfacing & Remote

When it comes to I/O, the HP-A8C is particularly well equipped with 2x optical and coaxial digital in, optical and coaxial digital out, analog in and out on RCA, USB , AES/EBU and an SDHC card slot for playback of DSF format audio direct from the card. (SD card also used for firmware updates). Twin headphone jacks are present on the front panel.

The compact full function remote control gives remote access to all major HP-A8C functions.