

Reference CD9

Bringing Digital Music to Life



“Top-loader or not, this is one of the finest players we have ever heard. Regardless of parameter – textures, space, attack, neutrality – the REF CD9 truly excels. The lack of artifice is as good as it gets.”, *Hi-Fi News, 2014 Yearbook*

Critically acclaimed, the REF CD9 Player/DAC combines the best of both in a high-resolution compact disc player with a super high-resolution digital-to-analog converter that is stunning in its musicality. The REF CD9's quality is unmistakable, from the formidable casework to the heavy-duty cast metal Pro2 disc transport. It is an all vacuum tube component with a quartet of 6H30 tubes, just as we use in other Reference components. In addition to the vacuum tube analog section, the power supply is vacuum tube regulated, giving the CD9 a dynamic swing and rich tonal saturation only tubes can provide.

Not just a CD player, the REF CD9 has a full-function DAC, able to decode files from 16/44.1 up to 24/192 in all inputs. Files can be played in their native resolution or upsampled. RCA, AES/EBU, Toslink and Asynchronous USB 2.0HS inputs assure the REF CD9 provides flexibility. Unsurpassed for compact disc playback, the REF CD9 utilizes quad 24-bit DACs running in mono mode, with dual master oscillators; one for 44.1/88.2/176.4 sample rates, the other for 48/96/192kHz sample rates. Additionally, there is a selectable digital filter, with either fast or slow rolloff. Single ended RCA and balanced XLR outputs assure perfect integration with your audio system. With XLR and BNC digital outputs, you can also use the REF CD9 as a digital transport.

When you insert your favorite compact disc and push play, be prepared to experience a wealth of detail that was previously hidden in your music collection. Combining the magic of tubes with new levels of transparency and aliveness, the REF CD9 provides a degree of musical involvement that is truly state of the art, transcending the 1s and 0s. Stereophile magazine's "Digital Product of the Year", the REF CD9's level of musicality shifts the balance in the analog versus digital debate.

After nearly 50 years, our focus remains the advancement of the state-of-the-art in music reproduction. Every component is meticulously hand-crafted and personally auditioned before it leaves our factory. Our attention to detail, customer service, and product support create unprecedented value. An Audio Research component is more than a purchase, it's an investment.

If you value your digital music collection, whether on CD or a compilation of music files, you will hear them in a revealing and musical new light with the REF CD9. A visit to your Audio Research dealer will open your eyes and have you digging through that collection.



SPECIFICATIONS

Inputs

RCA, AES/EBU (XLR), Toslink and Asynchronous USB
2.0HS

Outputs

XLR Balanced AES/EBU 110-ohms 4V P-P, BNC
coax SPDIF 75-ohms 0.7V P-P

Gain

14.0dB Balanced, 7.0dB SE

Intrinsic jitter

<10ps

Tube complement

4 - 6H30 dual triodes, plus 1 - 6550WE and
1 - 6H30 in power supply

Dimensions

Width: 19" (48 cm)
Height: 5.25" (13.4 cm) (standard rack panel)
Depth: 15.375" (39 cm)
Handles extend 1.50" (3.8 cm) forward of the front
panel.

Weight

33.0 lbs. (15.0 kg) Net; 43 lbs. (19.5 kg) Shipping

Complete technical specifications can be found on our website.

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