



DAC OF THE YEAR PrimaLuna EVO 100



In the audio world, few things are so good as those products that deliver a genuinely high-end performance but without the similarly lofty price tag. PrimaLuna has long been at the forefront of 'high-end without tears' movement and the latest Evolution line of valve-based electronics is set to continue the trend long into the future.

The EVO 100 DAC is a perfect example of PrimaLuna's intentions. It uses the tried and trusted Burr Brown PCM1792A DAC chip and this delivers PCM to 24bit, 192kHz precision and DSD via DoP to DSD128 for USB, DSD64 for all other inputs. PrimaLuna consciously steps back from the digital arms race, instead concentrating on making a fine sounding DAC. To this end, it uses two 12AX7, two 12AU7 and two 5AR4 valves in its output stage. The EVO 100 DAC's big hitter feature is its SuperTubeClock. This replaces the solid-state oscillator chip normally found in players and DACs at this level and replaces it with a Russian ex-military mini-tube. And that's all; hand-wired, single-ended outputs, no headphone socket or volume control. Just all you

need for a good DAC, or as Alan Sircom put it in his review, the EVO 100 has "a fine and accurate frequency range stretching down into the bass with precision and passion." "Stereo imaging is excellent, too, especially in terms of image height," he noted.

Alan concluded that "This is one of the nicest, most effortless sounding DACs out there, but not in a veiled way. PrimaLuna's EVO 100 DAC is incredibly informative, but in a musical rather than audio-detail manner." +

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