Moon by Simaudio Evolution 650D: $9000 ★

The beautifully built 650D is a single-box CD player and DAC with AES/EBU, S/PDIF, TosLink, and USB digital inputs; S/PDIF and AES/EBU digital outputs; and balanced and unbalanced analog outputs. It uses ESS Technology's Sabre[32] Ultra DAC chip and employs individual toroidal transformers for the digital and analog power supplies. The Simaudio had a muscular, rhythmically solid sound with clean, fast transient articulation, excellent transparency, outstanding soundstage depth and width, and analog-like imaging, said MF. JA was impressed by the Sim's superb measured performance: "It's hard to see how it could be any better!" It took three years, but an answer finally came, when MF reviewed the Simaudio Moon Evolution 820S power supply ($8000). Although the 820S can simultaneously power two Moon Evolution components—other candidates include Simaudio's 750D DAC, 740P preamplifier, and 610LP and 810LP phono preamplifiers—MF tried the review sample on the 650D. He found that, "in general, adding the 820S tightened the bottom end and removed smear and edge from the top, while improving high-frequency extension and the sense of air around instruments. Instrumental three-dimensionality improved, and microdynamics were particularly enhanced, probably as a result of the far lower noise floor." MF's conclusion? "My advice to owners of Simaudio's Moon Evolution 650D: Go to your dealer and get an 820S to take home and try. Put it on a credit card if the dealer doesn't trust you, but be prepared to drop $8000—I don't think you'll be returning that 820S to the store." (Vol.34 No.11, Vol.37 No.11 WWW)

Moon by Simaudio MiND network player: $990 $$$

Simaudio's Moon intelligent Network Device (MiND) is a network player for use in systems that already have a D/A converter and a Network Attached Storage (NAS) device—neither of which the MiND includes. Its use also requires a WiFi-compatible network router and, to run Simaudio's MiND app, an iPhone or iPad. The MiND itself, which is UPnP- and DLNA-compatible, offers WiFi and Ethernet inputs, and its all-digital outputs (AES/EBU, coaxial S/PDIF, and TosLink) support datastreams up to 24-

bit/192kHz. Virtually all music-file codecs are supported, as is streaming from vTuner Radio. With the MiND connected to his home router via Ethernet cable (and to his Auralic Vega DAC via AES/EBU), ML was impressed: "Compared to my stock MacBook Pro running Pure Music 2 or Audirvana, the MiND appeared to offer a lower noise floor. There was a newfound purity to the sound of my NAS-based music that made possible a more musically engaging experience." The drawback: "When I tried the MiND's WiFi connection, I found that I could play without problem files of resolutions up to 24/88.2, but higher resolutions had frequent dropouts." (Vol.38 No.1 WWW)

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