



METRONOME TECHNOLOGIE

Le Player 2S



TECHNICAL SHEET

PRICE

5.600 €

DIMENSIONS

450 x 115 x 435 mm

WEIGHT

15 kg

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

10 - 25000 Hz @ +/- 0.1 dB

DYNAMIC RANGE

More than 120 dB

ANALOG OUTPUTS

1 RCA (2.5 V and 47 Kohms) and
1 XLR (2.5 V and 600 ohms)

DIGITAL OUTPUT

1 RCA S/PDIF

Like the phoenix rising from its ashes, Métronome Technologie has returned to the forefront of the international high-fidelity scene under the leadership of Jean-Marie Clauzel, the company's new manager. Created in 1987, Métronome is one of the few French brands whose name is synonymous with top-of-the-range French products abroad, like Jadis Electronics, Focal and more recently Devialet.

Creator of high-class digital sources, the manufacturer launched a few months ago its introductory DAC player, which it named Le Player 2S and whose deep roots are none other than those of its flagship Kalista.

With such paternity on his birth certificate, Le Player 2S could only be well born. Housed in the very elegant brushed and satin-finished aluminum frame that has become over the years the aesthetic hallmark of Métronome Technologie products, the device visually distinguishes itself from its predecessor, Le Player 1, by front loading the disc instead of loading it from the top of the 1. The drawer replaces the sliding hood door, and it is one of the few technical modifications that has reduced the cost.

A WINNING TEAM

Beyond this search for the lowest cost, nothing has fundamentally changed at the heart of Le Player 2S. It starts with the mechanics which is none other than a Philips GF8 modified by Métronome Technologie at the motor bearing to improve stability

and the magnetic pressure pad in Delrin, a thermoplastic homopolymer resin with a very low coefficient of friction and very high wear resistance.

The fixing at the bottom of the frame is rigid, which allows vibrations to flow efficiently to the support through the legs also made of Delrin. As far as power supply is concerned, or should we talk about plural power supplies, the manufacturer has renewed what it implemented in Le Player 1. Le Player 2S is thus equipped with three covered transformers that deploy their voltages independently to the analog, digital and logic stages.

A mains filter provides them with a healthy 230 V, while a battery of capacitors and seven regulators pulls the different values of low line voltages to the audio circuits. The technique dear to Métronome Technologie of distributing the capacitive filter reserve through a multitude of capacitors of small values is applied on Le Player 2S for a total exceeding 70,000 microfarads. And several small polypropylene decoupling values are scattered at critical points in the diagram.





DIGITAL OF CHOICE

In addition to the presence of the mechanics, the inside of Le Player 2S is occupied by a single printed circuit board on which all the electronics of the device are installed. The Philips mechanics servo and decoding board is brought back to this motherboard and connected to the floors by several dab layers.

The conversion process within Le Player 2S is fully synchronized by a very high stability clock. The conversion is in dual-mono mode in 32-bit / 384 kHz format on the two inputs, one S / PDIF on RCA socket and the USB-B. The latter also accepts DSD streams up to x256.

The RCA and XLR outputs are impedance matched by four OPA604 operational amplifiers. The USB input is asynchronous and set to the internal clock, much more accurate and stable than that of the

computer from which the music data originates. A sampling frequency converter systematically modifies the incoming digital stream in DSD 256.

THE SET UP

The entry-level positioning of Le Player 2S does not reflect its true sound status at all. It is therefore important not to neglect the associated links and choose the best you have in stock. Le Player 2S deserves it well. A glance at the power phase, and the DAC player is ready to take you into its musical torrent.

THE SOUND

We listened to audio files of all resolutions and CDs. In both cases and from the first notes, it became clear that Le Player 2S had the ability to read and extract high-level information. On file 16/44 Ulaz from

Bojan Z's Xenophonia, we fall under the spell from the beginning with the presence of percussion.

The bass reproduced is deep, ample, well-structured, well-tensioned and with very accurate skin and resonance box tones. The same goes for the double bass and piano, whose notes stand out from each other with great ease. The melodic follow-up of the instruments is obvious. The pitted tones of the double bass cannot be confused with those of an electric bass, which often happens when the definition is not optimal. The cleanliness of the bass offers remarkable aeration and fluidity from extreme bass to low-midrange.

The piano sounds with good fullness and a high-pitched medium of fine finesse, the attacks being very frank but never excessively violent. The balance of Le Player 2S between speed of execution and tonal delicacy is obvious. The sound recording work is very well perceived, with a concentrated and spatial sound scene and a very precise stereo image. It gives an idea of the great respect of the phase of the *Métronome*, a predestined name...

We find on the *Recitativo* and the *Aria of Verbum 1* from Pergolesi's CD «Septem Verba a Christo» this unconditional respect of the phase with this time a very holographic scene, almost life size. The timbre of the voice of counter tenor Christophe Dumaux is perfectly fluid, the timbre accuracy is magnificent.

The perfectly stable stereophonic image actively contributes to the impression of realism that emerges from this listening. Le Player 2S makes the bass vocalist palpable and present in front of the listener, the emotion transmitted is almost quantifiable. Baroque instruments never have the greenness of bad digital to analog conversions. On the contrary, it is a festival of diverse and wooded sounds, well spaced and without any temporary confusion or aggressive intermodulation. Readability never loses its footing even when the harmonic density becomes complex, as in Ravel's work «Ma Mère l'Oye», adapted for ballet in 1912. The flight of brass and wind instruments towards the third minute of the work remains very intelligible, Le Player 2S reproduces with intensity and definition the dynamic whiplash of the score. The sound exploration he offers has an extremely communicative, delightful and exciting character.

OUR CONCLUSION

The time has come to take stock. In a nutshell, Le Player 2S is a real deal to really consider. The object is beautiful, sober and the product itself is very efficient. For a price that won't explode your bank account, Le Player 2S gives you money for two devices, a player and a USB converter. So if you're looking for an electronic device to play your CDs and another for audio files, Le Player 2S is the one for you. ■■■