



SPECIFICATIONS

Origin: France

Price: 6,500 euros

Dimensions (W x H x D):

450 x 120 x 420 mm

Weight: 11 kg

Mechanical :

Philips Gyr Falcon

8 customized

Converter:

AK4493EQ 32 bit

Digital inputs:

USB, S / PDIF on RCA,

Toslink optics

Stereo analog outputs: RCA
and balanced XLR

METRONOME LE PLAYER 3+ Exceptional Concentrate



Métronome dazzled us with its Kalista line, monumental by its design and performance, and by its exceptional devices from the Digital Sharing range. But the French brand also designs very high quality products that are much more affordable. Example, this CD player Le Player 3+ incorporating a high resolution USB input and a balanced output.

It is part of the new Classica range, bringing Metronome quality to a greater number of audiophiles.

Taking on the familiar aesthetic of the brand, it includes the integrated Le Player 2S, the Le Player 3 transport, the Le Dac converter, and the Le Player 3+ digital player all in one chassis. 3 and part of the Le Dac converter circuits. The Metronome aesthetic is easily identifiable, both classic

and reassuring by its noble materials which easily stand the test of time. The 10 mm front in solid aluminum, the 2 mm steel frame and the Metronome electronics invariably supported by a gigantic power supply for a CD player, this is the house signature, 100% made in France.

PURE METRONOME

A good CD player starts with good mechanics, here a Phi-lips Gyr Falcon 8 optimized by

This Metronome exudes a job well done: the workmanship is magnificent. It combines CD and high-resolution file playback with flying colors. It accepts the most common players such as J-River or Audirvana +.

Metronome. It is fully shielded in a metal case to better isolate it from external disturbances, minimize any operating noise, and thus offer optimal reading silence. The response time to opening is not super-fast (around 4 seconds), but it's not crippling. Next to the drawer, there is the typical blue Metronome display on a black background with characteristic icons, and the keys for selecting the playback functions as well as the choice of the digital input. The thick, finely brushed aluminum front inspires confidence, and the warm gray velor finish of the hood adds a soft touch. The chassis itself is also very rigid, the Player 3+ being very heavy for a CD player: 11 kg. The attention paid to vibration isolation is evident, because under the three large circular feet screwed



Delrin tips are attached to the rounded end under the frame by magnetization, so as not to damage the support.

MAXIMUM RESOLUTION

The back shows all the interest of this Metronome player which accommodates an asynchronous USB socket as well as an S / PDIF connector on RCA and Toslink optical. It is thus able to read any high resolution file, up to 32 bits / 384 kHz in PCM and native DSD x 512 (non DoP). The S / PDIF input accepts files up to 24-bit / 192kHz. This is made possible by the use of the excellent AKM chips: the AK4118AEQ digital audio transceiver and the Velvet Sound AK4493EQ 32-bit dual-mono differential technology DAC, perfect for high resolution. On this subject, the designer Jean-Marie Clauzel recalls that these new techniques make it possible to better transcribe all the important elements of a recording.

He notes that the dynamic range of a CD is 96 dB, while that of a 24/192 kHz PCM file peaks at 144 dB, and the DSD 2.8 MHz at 120 dB. But listening, to his knowledge, no double-blind test has been able to demonstrate the absolute superiority of high resolution over CD. It's up to you to judge on Le Player 3+. Finally inside, the view of the power supply impresses: no less than three Talema molded transformers for each of the voltages: 7, 9 and 12 V. The filtering by multiple capacities of small values is a constant of the brand, followed by four independent regulations to provide the purest possible current to each stage of the circuit. Order, seriousness and rigor reign: beautiful work.

LISTENING

Stamps: Métronome has always claimed a strong sound identity, as close as possible to this famous

The Philips transport is shielded. Top-notch realization mixes through components (capacities) and surface area, for a clear saving of space. Admire the size of the feed! The three Talema transformers are preceded by a Schaffner mains filter.

analog sound, possessing matter and density, but always remaining faithful to a certain claimed truth. It is difficult to say what is the specific character of the player Le Player 3+ because it is constantly changing, according to the sound recordings and the quality of the files played. With such a player, needless to say, the better the quality of the files, the greater the musical satisfaction felt. One thing is certain, he knows how to convey the emotions of great artists, such as Yves Montant performing live and singing "À bicyclette", where the warm, inimitable and modulated voice is perfectly reproduced by the Metro-nome, who will know how to move unmistakably. Another great romantic, Michel Legrand, is taken over by Paolo Fresu and Richard Galliano in "The Windmills of Your Mind", album Mare Nostrum III, where the accuracy of the trumpet and the precision of the accordion are formidable in terms of realism and finesse. , giving chills of



contentment and restrained emotion. The overall consistency of this reader's stamps is remarkable. Dynamic: The over-sized diet is not there to amuse the gallery, its contribution is really tangible and beneficial even for a simple CD player. Patricia Barber's album Verse is extremely satisfying, as the spectacular sound recording poses it in front of us with realism. The attacks have weight, the bass is full and well defined, but also agile, a feeling of ease emerges constantly when listening. The innate dynamic dispositions of the Metronome do not preclude a flexibility of phrasing carrying the melodic follow-up with ease, without abrupt or harsh aspect, unlike some digital sources which do too much. The Metro-nome reader succeeds with flying colors between all these parameters. All the experience acquired over the decades by the brand is undoubtedly paying off, as the recipes applied to this entry-level are the same as on the illustrious and more prestigious elders, such as the meticulous attention to the details that matter.

Soundstage: It's nice to enjoy on the Metronome an album like An Ancient Muse, by Loreena McKennitt, listening to the abundant track "The Gates of Istanbul". The complexity of the strata of sound planes, the varied orchestral colors mixing acoustic instruments and synthetic keyboards, the high-pitched voice of the Celtic artist, the deep well

present bringing a real depth, everything is there to abuse any source, even upscale. Thanks to Player 3+, the balance is struck between definition and ductility, a heady melodic line that does not weaken, clearly readable shots to take advantage of the richness of the desks, without ever tending towards the blink of an eye. It's the same on Opéra Gala, Live from Baden-Baden (DGG), where on Delibes the lightness of the backgrounds really serves the concert atmosphere, the magnificent voices of the talented singers expressing all the variety of music. their ranges, in the middle of a credible and realistic orchestra, neither truncated nor simplified thanks to an excellent AKM conversion of the Velvet Sound type. On all criteria, the Metronome is flawless, coherent and simply musical. Quality / price ratio: To better judge its quality / price ratio, just open the hood: the construction is magnificent; a rigor of realization rarely encountered, if not on other Metronomes. Even if this is an entry level, we are dealing with a top-of-the-range device by its technical rigor, entirely of French and artisanal manufacture. That's three full days of work to make a

PRODUIT DU MOIS METRONOME LE PLAYER 3+

player including 48 hours of break-in and various checks.

VERDICT

Player 3+ is the example of what a top-class CD player should be today, that is to say not content only to read Compacts-Discs (not yet dead by the way), even if its excellent mechanics allow it brilliantly. In the same device, an open door to digital reading which, with the addition of a PC / Mac computer, will ideally exploit high resolution files. But the main thing is that it is faithful to the music, combining a sense of detail and realism, wide dynamic possibilities, easy and pleasant reproduction, in short, the good sides of digital reading. It is THE music player by Métronome, expert in the field since 1987.

Le Player 3+ does not have a variable output, but the USB playback softs easily control the volume, and it is especially made to be connected to a preamp or a built-in. The RC5 remote control is provided, also activating the brightness of the screen or its extinction.

Bruno Castelluzzo

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| TIMBRE | ■■■■■■■■■ |
| DYNAMICS | ■■■■■■■■■ |
| SOUND STAGE | ■■■■■■■■■ |
| PRICE | ■■■■■■■■■ |

LISTENING SYSTEM

Mac Book Air with Audirvana
+ V3 CD player: Icos Fado
Streamer: Auralic Aries G2.1
Speakers: PMC MB2 Se
Cables: line + HP Esprit
Lumina, Esprit Aurora sector
Socket block: Nodal Audio
LMP1 Support unit: Solidsteel

