



REVIEW

MÉTRONOME – LE STREAMER

World exclusive review – Métronome Le Streamer, the new addition to the Classica range

The Métronome Classica range so far includes the Métronome Le Player, Métronome Le Player+, and Métronome Le DAC systems. However, one key element was missing: a true streamer, now added with the new Métronome Le Streamer. Alongside its world premiere at the High End 2023 show, HiFi.luxury from sempre-audio.at offers an exclusive, detailed review of the new Métronome Le Streamer.

In summury

The Métronome Le Streamer is a solution from the Métronome Classica range, exclusively dedicated to high-resolution audio streaming. Premiered at High

End 2023, it is also the subject of an exclusive review by HiFi.luxury.

Although the manufacturer Métronome Technologie refers to the Métronome Le Streamer as a streamer and network player, it is actually a streaming transport. This solution focuses exclusively on the most accurate playback of audio data from the network, leaving the conversion of the digital signal to analog to specialized external devices.

The new Métronome Le Streamer naturally integrates perfectly into the Classica range, which previously included a CD transport, a CD player, and a digital-to-analog converter. While streaming extension options had been offered for the CD player and CD transport, there has until now been no dedicated high-resolution audio streaming solution in the

range. This gap is now filled with the new Métronome Le Streamer.

Métronome's Classica range

The current generation of Métronome's Classica range is still very recent, having been announced by the French high-end Hi-Fi workshop at the end of August last year. This announcement included three new solutions: Métronome Le Player 4, Métronome Le Player 4+, and Métronome Le DAC 2.

Métronome Technologie gladly refers to the Classica range as an entry-level line, designed to allow a wide audience to discover the brand's solutions and experience what they call the "Métronome sound."

However, given the qualities offered by the devices in this series, it is important to emphasize that Métronome Technologie starts where



It is important to emphasize that the new Métronome Le Streamer is not a streaming client but rather a "Streaming Transport." As mentioned earlier, this solution focuses solely on handling data from the network and its playback, leaving the signal conversion to analog to external specialists.

The Le Streamer is available in black or silver.

It should be noted that the device can primarily be placed on three solid feet, but the package also includes three matching metal cones that fit the aforementioned feet, ensuring excellent decoupling. Anyone looking to protect their Streaming Transport from harmful resonances or vibrations that could affect sound quality will certainly be on the right track.

many others don't even come close to comparing. Even within the Classica range, we are already dealing with absolute high-end Hi-Fi systems.

This is also confirmed by the latest generation of the series, which has been completely rethought and elevated to an entirely new level of quality.

Transport CD and CD player with streaming option

As already mentioned, it is not entirely accurate to say that there was no streaming option within the Métronome Classica range solutions until now. In fact, for the Métronome Le Player 4 and Métronome Le Player 4+ systems, Métronome Technologie does offer an optional streaming solution as an extension.

However, the French manufacturer also acknowledges that it is well aware that many customers prefer a separate solution, and it is precisely this type of solution that is now available with the new Métronome Le Streamer.

Métronome Technologie thus responds to the demand expressed by many customers for a solution specifically designed for this purpose.

Métronome Le Streamer – The streaming transport of the Classica range

The company from Montans naturally has its own systems in mind, particularly those from the Classica series, such as the Métronome Le DAC 2, which serves as the centerpiece of the product lineup. It also acts as the converter for a potential Métronome Le Player 4.

Of course, Métronome Technologie also clarifies that the Le Streamer can be used with any high-end D/A converter. The goal is to give customers the freedom to choose from the wide range of options available in the high-end market.

Exactly in the style of the Métronome Classica range.

Of course, the Métronome Le Streamer fully presents itself in the style of the Classica range, and in this regard, we can confidently state, according to our humble assessment, that the Classica range offers the most elegant appearance among the product lines of the prestigious French high-end Hi-Fi brand.

The solid enclosure, fully made of robust metal, features a partially brushed and partially satin-finished aluminum front, while the top and rear panel are made of painted sheet metal with a generously sized wall thickness.

The Le Streamer is clearly not a lightweight, as evidenced by the fact that it weighs no less than 11 kg with dimensions of 450 mm in width, 410 mm in depth, and 105 mm in height. The robust enclosure described earlier is certainly a contributing factor to this impressive weight.

Massive alimentation

It is clear that the technicians at Métronome Technologie do not keep secret information about the



streaming platform of the new Le Streamer. Indeed, one can say, like all others in this field, they literally "cook" with water.

However, the new Métronome Le Streamer stands out clearly from many other similar solutions on the market, and significantly so, as shown by a look inside.

For Jean-Marie Clauzel, owner and designer of Métronome

Technologie, as well as for his engineers, optimizing power supply at every level is crucial for the quality of HiFi components.

While other similar solutions mainly rely on a board for the streaming platform and a weak power supply, the effort made by Métronome Technologie regarding the power supply, even for a simple streaming transport, is truly remarkable.

Thus, two toroidal transformers with individual power supplies for each section do their job, demonstrating meticulous attention to every detail in order to achieve absolute perfection.

Just a LED in the front...

Those looking for a multitude of controls on the front will likely be disappointed, as the Le Streamer features none. However, this is not entirely accurate, as there is indeed a status LED on the front, but that's about it. Only the name of the device and the manufacturer's name are discreetly engraved in the center of the aluminum front panel. The main switch is located at the back.

A look in the back

Examining the back of the Métronome Le Streamer reveals,

first and foremost, a Gigabit RJ45 Ethernet interface—the best way to connect this solution to a network reliably and achieve optimal performance.



However, it is also possible to connect "wirelessly," as the new Métronome Le Streamer is equipped with an integrated WiFi module compliant with the IEEE 802.11ac standard. According to Métronome Technologie, this ensures a reliable data connection.

A USB 2.0 port allows direct connection of storage devices as a source, whether in the form of USB flash drives or external hard drives.

Establish a digital connection

As mentioned earlier, the Métronome Le Streamer is solely a streaming transport, which is why only digital interfaces are available for output. It features an optical and coaxial S/PDIF interface, as well as an AES/EBU connection.

Additionally, the Métronome Le Streamer is even equipped with an I2S interface, presented in the form of HDMI.

Via S/PDIF and AES/EBU, Le Streamer can transmit Linear PCM signals up to 32-bit/384 kHz, as well as DSD128,

though this is done via DoP (DSD over PCM). The system can also transmit native DSD up to DSD256, as well as Linear PCM up to 32-bit/384 kHz via I2S and, therefore, the HDMI port.

UPnP, Apple AirPlay, Roon-ready and "Pläys with Audirvāna"

First and foremost, the new Métronome Le Streamer is a UPnP streaming transport certified for DLNA, thereby utilizing the only true industry standard. Additionally, it also offers compatibility with Apple AirPlay, is

declared Roon Ready, and is among the first partners of the French software company Audirvāna SAS, supporting its new partner program, "Pläys with Audirvāna."

The first point of contact

The setup of the Le Streamer is incredibly simple, especially if you choose to use a wired connection instead of WiFi. In this case, there is absolutely nothing to do to start enjoying this stunning French device.

Once all connections are made and the device is turned on, the LED light at the front flashes quickly for a few seconds, then more slowly, until it stays on permanently, indicating that the Métronome Le Streamer is ready for use.

mConnect for Apple iOS and Google Android

With the launch of the new Métronome Le Streamer, the French high-fidelity brand has deliberately chosen not to offer its own app. According to their clear statement, they do not wish to spread themselves thin by focusing on secondary aspects, believing that there are already



plenty of high-quality software solutions available on the market, allowing users to choose the ideal one for them.

On the Métronome Technologie side, the mConnect app is recommended. It is a UPnP-based app, available for Apple iOS and Google Android, which is constantly updated and has long proven its reliability and ease of use.

This app is also useful if you want to integrate the Métronome Le Streamer into a wireless network. With mConnect, this can be done in just a few minutes, without requiring any technical knowledge.

Thanks to the app, various streaming services are also directly accessible, such as TIDAL, Qobuz, Deezer, and internet radio via vTuner.

In practice

It is worth emphasizing again how impressive it is to see that Métronome Technologie pays attention to every imaginable detail, even for a solution as simple as a Streaming Transport, in order to achieve the best possible quality. The solid casing, the sophisticated power supply—these are often lacking in many highly regarded manufacturers within this product category.

But this is precisely what HiFi enthusiasts value so much in the solutions from Métronome Technologie. Here, no compromises are made; on the contrary, everything is designed to eliminate any potential source of error that could negatively impact the sound.

Indeed, this is reflected in the quality, even though, in such a streaming transport, it is the other components that ultimately determine the sound, particularly the digital-to-analog converter used. A classic sound evaluation is

therefore not possible with the Métronome Le Streamer.

However, what is clear to note is that solutions as refined and optimized in every aspect as the Métronome Le Streamer provide a solid foundation. The streamer delivers a data stream that offers the external digital-to-analog converter ideal conditions, allowing it to fully harness its potential.

A Streaming Transport like the Métronome Le Streamer enables every D/A converter to deliver the best possible quality, revealing all the details of the music. The extent of this difference is something one must experience for themselves...

Price et availability

The new Métronome Le Streamer made its debut at the High End 2023 show and is expected to be available in specialty stores shortly thereafter, as confirmed by Métronome Technologie. The recommended retail price for Le Streamer is €4,990.

What we think about it

Perfection must be the goal; making compromises simply has no place in the philosophy of the French high-end Hi-Fi brand, Métronome Technologie. This is once again reflected in the new Métronome Le Streamer from the Classica range, which now enhances this lineup with a Streaming Transport. A Streaming Transport means that the Métronome Le Streamer handles only the data traffic from the network, leaving the analog signal conversion to other specialists. But it is with the same passion and attention to detail, even the most

subtle ones, that Métronome Technologie dedicates itself to this task, once again presenting a reference solution in this category.



Positives:

- Nearly solid casing
- Elegant design
- Focuses on one task and performs it perfectly

Negatives:

- In addition to Apple AirPlay, Google Chromecast would have been desirable.

Test environment:

- NUCLEUS+ by Roon
- Roon
- TIDAL HiFi
- Apple MacBook Pro
- Apple iTunes with Apple Music
- AUDIRVĀNA STUDIO 2.3
- Technics SU-R1000
- KEF Blade 2
- Nordost speaker cables
- Audioquest interconnect cables