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REVIEW

MÉTRONOME – DSS 2

Very briefly

As a streaming transport, Métronome DSS 2 Network Player and Streamer is designed to be the entry model of Métronome's DS range.

Métronome's DSS 2 is a truly unique solution, developed by the prestigious French high-end Hi-Fi brand Métronome Technologie. It succeeds the DSS, one of the company's most successful products. With this new model, Métronome Technologie offers an entry into the world of streaming, thus marking the starting point of the Métronome DS range.

Like the first generation, new Métronome DSS 2 remains a streaming transport. It therefore does not include a built-in converter and focuses entirely on delivering the most

accurate reproduction of digital data.

Métronome DSS 2 Network Player and Streamer – The entry point of the Métronome DS range

Streaming is obviously an extremely important area for Métronome Technologie, which clearly positions itself as one of the leading specialists in digital technology, particularly with its D/A converters, CD and SACD players, as well as its streaming solutions.

Jean Marie Clauzel, owner and designer of Métronome Technologie, places particular emphasis on this aspect by grouping all streaming solutions under the range called Métronome DS Range, where DS stands for Digital Sharing.

"Sharing stands for streaming," is the philosophy behind this approach. This also explains the name of the entry-level solution, DSS 2, where DSS stands for Digital Sharing Streamer.

The successor to an extremely successful solution

As briefly mentioned in the introduction, Métronome DSS 2 is a particularly important product for Métronome Technologie, as it succeeds its highly successful predecessor. DSS was the first streaming transport developed by Métronome Technologie, thus laying the foundation for the entire Métronome Digital Sharing range.

Among the particularly notable factors for the success of Métronome DSS, the manufacturer highlights its

flexibility and compact dimensions, which made it easy to integrate into various HiFi systems. This allowed for maximum functionality while maintaining exceptional quality.

It goes without saying that these success factors have been preserved in DSS 2, although, as the manufacturer points out, it is an entirely new solution, both in terms of electronics and software, with both being completely redeveloped.

Developed from scratch

Although the basic concept has been retained, DSS 2 has been completely redeveloped. The underlying electronics are entirely new, as is the software.

offered much larger devices in their catalog, even when it comes to streaming solutions alone...

However, DSS 2 still weighs 4.8 kg, which is particularly remarkable, as other solutions designed as streaming transports seem almost weightless in comparison.

A sober and pragmatic technical design approach

In terms of design, it draws from the essentials, and it is hard to spot any major change at first glance between the first and second generations of DSS 2. One could describe the appearance of Métronome DSS 2 as very discreet and minimalist, with what could be called a sober

control elements. Ultimately, one must admit that this is really all that's needed.

Fully redesigned hardware and fully developed software

The real reason for this relatively high weight lies once again inside DSS 2. While some other solutions of this type use a small circuit board with a highly integrated solution handling all the functions, powered by a modest and underpowered power supply, Métronome Technologie remains faithful to its philosophy. This philosophy, which the company has followed for years and which has made it renowned as a true digital specialist with exceptional expertise, is to make no compromises and to provide everything necessary to ensure optimal results.

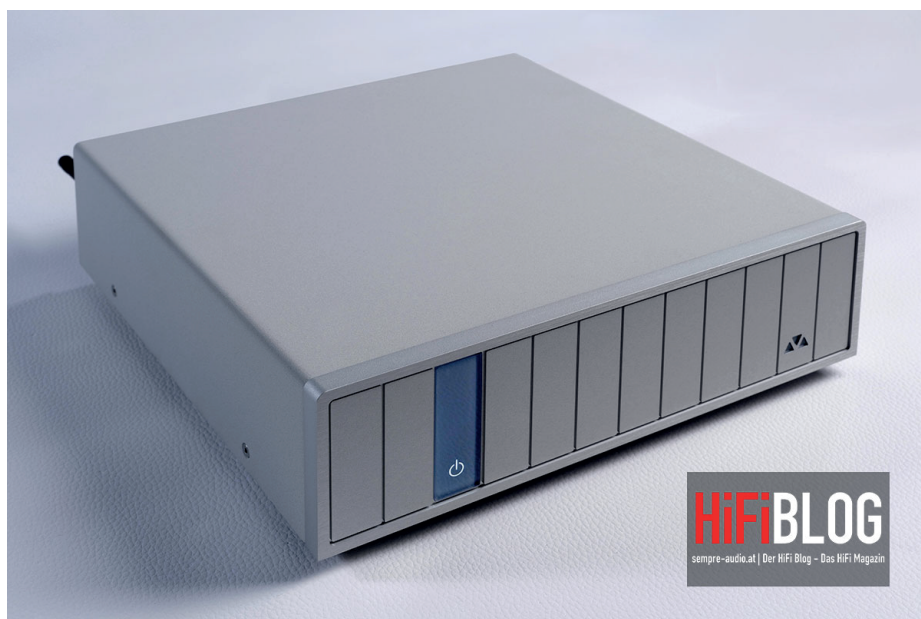
Yes, here too, IT technology is used at the heart of the system, but what matters is everything surrounding it: from the proper timing to optimal isolation against interference, including the power supply based on a toroidal transformer and separate power supplies for each functional group. All of this has received great attention, even though the details about it remain intentionally discreet once again.

As mentioned earlier, it is specified that this is a completely redesigned hardware platform, which naturally entails entirely new software. This elevates the performance of DSS 2, particularly in terms of functionality, to a higher level.

A look at the back

Let's now take a look at the back of the new Métronome DSS 2, where, as it is a pure streaming transport, digital interfaces predominate.

At the top, there is a coaxial S/PDIF interface, but DSS 2 also features an AES/EBU interface. An HDMI interface is also



This allows Métronome DSS 2 to offer a number of very important innovations, making it much more than just a model update.

The most compact from Métronome Technologie

If you're somewhat familiar with Métronome Technologie's product range, you'll immediately notice that DSS 2 is a relatively compact solution, even quite small. It measures around 25 cm in width, 25 cm in depth, and only 7 cm in height. The French company has

and pragmatic approach to technical design.

In fact, one of the reasons why DSS 2 weighs 4.8 kg is its absolutely solid and flawless construction, made of stainless steel with a finely brushed aluminum front. This solution is available in black or silver finishes. The device rests on three feet, also made of aluminum.

It is worth mentioning that the front of Métronome DSS 2 only features a standby button along with a status LED, with no other

present, fulfilling the I2S function. It is also worth mentioning the presence of a USB-A port.

Network integration is mainly done via an RJ45 Ethernet interface, but DSS 2 now also supports Wi-Fi, with an external antenna at the back ensuring optimal data transmission.

Linear PCM up to 24 bits and 192 kHz, as well as up to DSD256

DSS 2 is designed as a DLNA-certified UPnP streaming solution, and it relies on, it's important to emphasize, the only industry standard in audio streaming. Everything else on the market are ultimately proprietary streaming platforms from specific manufacturers.

It goes without saying that DSS 2 supports all relevant data formats in Linear PCM with resolutions up to 24 bits and 192 kHz, as well as DSD up to DSD256. It also supports data encoded in the lossy compressed MQA format.

When it comes to controlling playback, Métronome Technologie specifies that it is up to the user to choose the app they wish to use for convenient control, as the options available are extremely varied, both for Apple iOS and Google Android. The only recommendation in this regard is the mConnect Control app.

Roon Ready, compatible with Audirvāna, and Apple AirPlay 2

It should be noted that the new Métronome DSS 2 is, of course, Roon Ready certified, allowing it to be directly integrated into the media management and multiroom audio streaming software from Roon Labs LLC.

Additionally, Métronome Technologie has now chosen to collaborate with the French



software company Audirvāna SAS and has obtained the "Works with Audirvāna" certification. Audirvāna is, as many know, a very flexible solution, particularly appreciated by many discerning HiFi enthusiasts for managing and playing Hi-res audio files, available for both Apple macOS and Microsoft Windows.

A new feature of DSS 2 is the support for Apple AirPlay 2, which allows it to be controlled directly via an iPhone, iPad, or Apple macOS desktop or laptop system. This enables streaming content directly from various streaming services.

From practice

The fact that it is possible to set up new Métronome DSS 2 in just a few minutes is worth mentioning, but there is no need to elaborate on it. In fact, there is nothing special to consider. Simply integrate the device into the network, connect it to the DAC, and ensure the power supply.

The idea behind DSS 2 is to provide a solution that, while remaining simple, performs its role quietly in the background, and this can be taken literally in several ways. This solution has

been designed by Métronome Technologie to be as understated and compact as possible, so it can be discreetly integrated into a HiFi rack or AV furniture without trying to stand out.

For our test, for example, we simply placed the device in our AV furniture, next to the network switch, with a short Ethernet cable, a connection to the amplifier and its integrated DAC, and everything was set up and ready to use. DSS 2 was operational in no time.

For the test, we mainly opted for Audirvāna Studio, as we have particularly liked this software for years, especially for its ease of use while offering a wide range of features and impeccable quality.

And since it is a pure streaming transport, there is no need to discuss the sound in detail, as it is ultimately determined by the other components in the system.

It is, however, undeniable that the quality of a streaming transport is crucial for achieving the best results. While there is no digital-to-analog conversion, a streaming transport must still process the signals with extreme precision, provide optimal timing, and deliver the data without any

interference.

And this is precisely what Métronome Technologie ensures with considerable effort in new Métronome DSS 2, as demonstrated in our test.

Price and availability

Métronome DSS 2 is already available in specialized stores. The user can choose between a black or silver version. The recommended retail price is €4,450.

Our opinion

It is hardly surprising that Métronome Technologie, as a recognized digital specialist, pays meticulous attention to every detail of its smallest system in the Métronome DS range to achieve optimal results. What is surprising, however, is the extent of the efforts required, even for a streaming transport, as demonstrated by DSS 2. Thus, those looking for a flexible solution that serves as the foundation for an exceptional streaming system may find the ideal solution in Métronome DSS 2. With the enhanced functionality of this second generation, we can confidently recommend DSS 2.

