



Hungary :

Metrum Acoustics Musette NOS Test



Online translations are difficult ... but some common 'themes' shine through. Following is an approximation of content.

Digital signal conversion technology without oversampling, now cheaper !

After the great success achieved with sales of the professional DAC HEX, Metrum have specialised in smaller size and price for a given device, over many years.

The company's engineers believe that the digital / analog converter is a passion for which hi-fi enthusiasts are still prepared to pay. The customer in addition receives something special for the price, as it is now rare for such non-oversampling electronics. In general, all NOS DAC's are designed to give you a lush, "analog" sound, as would otherwise be expected in an expensive and complicated sound structured DAC.

The company Metrum Acoustic supplies a nondescript white cardboard box with this unit. Looking from the outside! Inside, however, interesting discoveries are found in terms of the goods packaging technology. Placed between two plastic stretched membranes, DAC Musette is seen as if it were floating in the package. In any case, this solution is awareness. If we start out

from that experience and get to know the contents of the package, it may well be that curiosity in the device will relate to surprising interest.



The usual enclosure for design-intensive equipment finds a thick aluminum front panel and the metal frame and steel casing as in other Metrum Acoustic product appearances. The smaller size and combined effects of thick materials used perform well in anti-vibration control. It fits easily into any "minimum-concept" hi-fi componentry in Hungary. Controls are easy to navigate.



Connectivity options : Optical, Coaxial and USB-B selects the input gear.



The Musette NOS-DAC conversion uses normal, most commonly used file types (FLAC, WAV and MP3). Converted using two R2R ladder Dac One transient modules, as used in the Pavane model which has already proved its abilities. This case clearly shows that after a while trickle-down technology can be applied to more modestly priced products. These modules are well designed and provide for extremely high sampling rates.

The USB input is one of Metrum's own USB3 module, which includes M2Tech XMOS chip on the PC. USB brings maximum input current industry standards (384kHz). The result, the entire conversion process is extremely fast and accurate transient behavior and thus a much higher level of listening experience. I would note that the speed is mainly limited by its audio format.

The next step of buffering in this case it is 200 MHz. A very large (100 dB) channel separation of instrumentalists on stage with good sound isolation implemented. In addition, the fast electronics is a major factor in good linearity. The signal in minimalist fashion is directly connected to the output, and not amplification stage. If you prefer, this means lower signal distortion, more pure sound.

The device can be found with a set of accessories ; USB cable and a nice-crafted flash drive to ensure trouble-free installation. The USB key drive on the application, the instructions and some songs.



For the strict enthusiast who believes in the superiority of a symmetrical connection, there is only one thing missing - the AES / EBU inputs and balanced (XLR) outputs. (For those sworn to XLR cables who believe they produce better sound - will keep to their faith!)

Listening

What do you listen to? As it turns out later we note everything and all genres, all acoustic instruments – are true to the name - "suit" the Musette DAC. The Musette name, relates to danceable French music which became popular in Paris during the 1880s.

During the 19th century, opening cafes and bars in Paris and Italy tánczenéjében musicians played the accordion. Simply put, a descendant of the Musette folk melodies with German influence (accordion), Italian classical and popular (or Tzigane Manouche Gypsy) influences in combination.

For all Musette orchestras of the 1920s and 1940s, this repertoire was indispensable not only for the waltz or tango but pasodobles, the foxtrot, polka and even the use of American jazz and swing rhythm elements.

The term seems to confirm, that the Musette certainly was known as "world music".

At first, in style, we listen and try one or two to accordion virtuosos from Richard Galliano and players mestermunkáiból! It turns out that Musette produces sound with the kind of immediacy that is very musically engaging. Perfect intonation, flawless technique and mastery of tone, gives us the feeling that the space between the speakers has the band playing in front of us.

Perhaps other DACs reveal greater detail in terms of resolution but this can distract attention from other properties that are better. The Metrum Musette does not add anything to the pure music.

Second, we listened to a chamber music work by Giovanni Battista Sammartini masterpiece - Concerto in C major for violoncello piccolo, strings and basso continuo. It's not just great spatial placement but the extent of energy and sound of individual instruments revealed. Arguably there could be a little more accuracy but it does not mean anything if we do not get the rhythm and dance seduction.

Our test subject has enjoyable timbre, tonal colors and tonal-scale. It has a sharper focus and we hear more lively rhythms than average D / A converters. It helps with majestic stringed instruments, rich soft decays, creating a complete sound specific to the instrument.

Thirdly acoustic jazz. John Pizzarelli commemorative album of Duke Ellington's works, where swing is balanced and strongly evident. The distinctive style of the 20's and 30's with final recordings of the nine-fresh melodies "brigade musicians". The interpretation is refreshing and also journey through the world of professionalism. Here you can experience the separation especially of instruments and feeling of sound space surrounding members of the orchestra.

The bass is not necessarily deeper than in any other decent DAC but the exact definition and melodious result gives us a very positive overall impression.

Fourth, a classic orchestral symphonic work of Franz Liszt - Totentanz (Paraphrase on "Dies irae" for piano and orch.) Within this work the full framework and dynamic sound spectrum of the piano can be heard. This work

was appraised after listening to a lot of other Dac manufacturers. NOS DAC's are known not perform well with respect to certain technical parameters.

Linear, extremely wide frequency responses and optimal jitter performance are examples often cited. This is on paper though and no guarantee that musicality and musical resolution will be lacking. There are misconceptions about how a DAC mimics the analog sound.

The musical Musette successfully achieves the goal of digital signal conversion with a musical analog taste.

The "digital silence" (deep-dark and quiet noise floor) is where it should be, giving the impression that everything in the room is making music. The individual musicians have sufficient space around them, making for more spatial awareness and so this gives you a more musical listening experience.

In fact so impressive was spatial depth, the third dimension, we can discover rich new areas of interest from plenty of music in our collections.



Conclusion

The Metrum Acoustics Musette has the enviable ability to separate auras between the musicians, the instruments can be easily differentiated, feeling

free to listen to vocals, without any deterioration of the overall picture of rhythm and dynamics.

Given this positive, pretty impressive experience, emphasizes our judgment that the price is extremely favorable, even if it is a little less well-known brand.

The Musette DAC is a lot of fun, the price is adequate and it is a completely modern device. So we must ask ourselves the question, why would anyone want to own a NOS DAC ?

The answer is simple: we are all different, sound affects us in different ways to draw out the music in our souls. If everyone had the same taste in sound reproduction, then there would be only one product range - many people really enjoy the way the Metrum Acoustics Musette NOS DAC sounds.

The above-mentioned qualities brilliantly demonstrate this awareness of the Musette DAC's sound presentation.

Musicality:	90%
Térleképzés:	90%
Dynamics:	85%
Design:	85%
Construction:	95%
Versatility:	80%
Overall:	88%

Pros :

- + Expressive, naturalistic sound
- + Good resonance presentation
- + Air and space

Cons :

- The lack of XLR connectors

<http://hangzasvilag.hu/metrum-acoustics-musette-nos-single-ended-dac/>