AudioQuest Dragonfly Red

AudioQuest Dragonfly Red USB Digital-to-Analog Converter Instruction Manual

Model: Dragonfly Red

1. INTRODUCTION

The AudioQuest Dragonfly Red is a portable USB Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) and headphone amplifier designed to deliver enhanced audio quality from any mobile device or computer. This compact device processes digital audio signals, converting them into analog sound for headphones or audio systems, bypassing the often inferior internal DACs of source devices. It supports a wide range of music files, from MP3s to 24-bit/96kHz high-resolution audio, and features a powerful 2.1-volt output capable of driving most headphones.
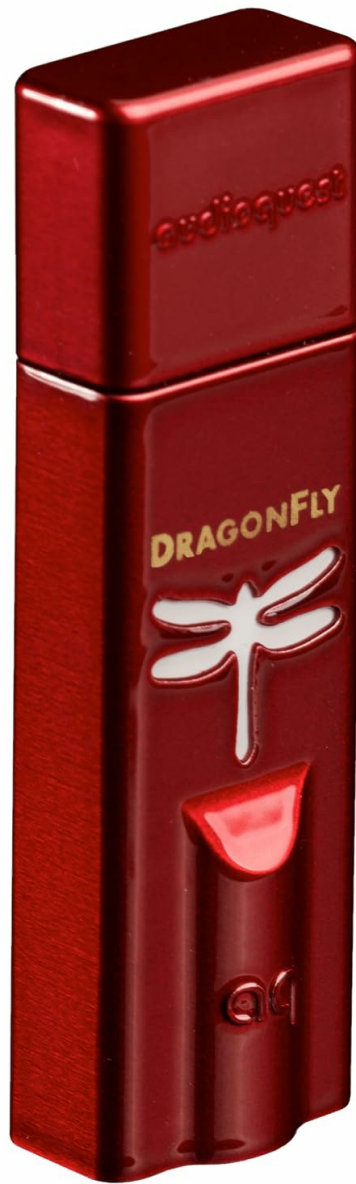
Image: The AudioQuest Dragonfly Red USB Digital-to-Analog Converter, a compact red device with a dragonfly logo.

2. FEATURES

- **32-Bit SABRE DAC:** Utilizes a high-performance digital-to-analog converter chip for superior sound reproduction.
- **2.1v Output:** Provides ample power to drive a wide range of headphones, ensuring dynamic and clear audio.
- **Universal Compatibility:** Works with Apple and Android devices when paired with a simple adapter (sold separately).
- **High-Resolution Audio Support:** Plays everything from MP3s to 24-bit/96kHz high-resolution files, including MQA for streaming.
- **Enhanced Audio Quality:** Improves detail, transparency, immediacy, richness, and tonal accuracy of your audio.
- **Direct Headphone Drive:** Designed to directly drive headphones for optimal performance.
- **Fixed Output:** Can feed a preamp or receiver for integration into a home audio system.
- **Asynchronous Transfer:** Ensures digital timing integrity for reduced jitter and improved sound.

3. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

- AudioQuest Dragonfly Red USB Digital-to-Analog Converter
- Leatherette Travel Pouch

Note: Additional accessories such as USB adapters for mobile devices (e.g., Apple Lightning to USB Camera Adapter, Android USB-C to USB-A adapter) are sold separately and may be required for certain setups.

4. SETUP

4.1 Connecting to a Computer (Windows/macOS)

1. Plug the Dragonfly Red directly into an available USB-A port on your computer.
2. Connect your headphones or audio system to the 3.5mm output jack on the Dragonfly Red.
3. Your computer should automatically recognize the device. Select the Dragonfly Red as your audio output device in your operating system's sound settings.

Image: The Dragonfly Red plugged into a laptop's USB port, with headphones connected to the DAC's 3.5mm jack.

4.2 Connecting to a Mobile Device (iOS/Android)

For mobile devices, an appropriate USB adapter is required (not included).

- **For iOS devices:** Use an Apple Lightning to USB Camera Adapter (or a USB-C to USB-A adapter for newer iPads). Connect the adapter to your iOS device, then plug the Dragonfly Red into the adapter's USB-A port.
- **For Android devices:** Use a USB-C to USB-A adapter (or Micro-USB to USB-A for older devices) with OTG (On-The-Go) functionality. Connect the adapter to your Android device, then plug the Dragonfly Red into the adapter's USB-A port.
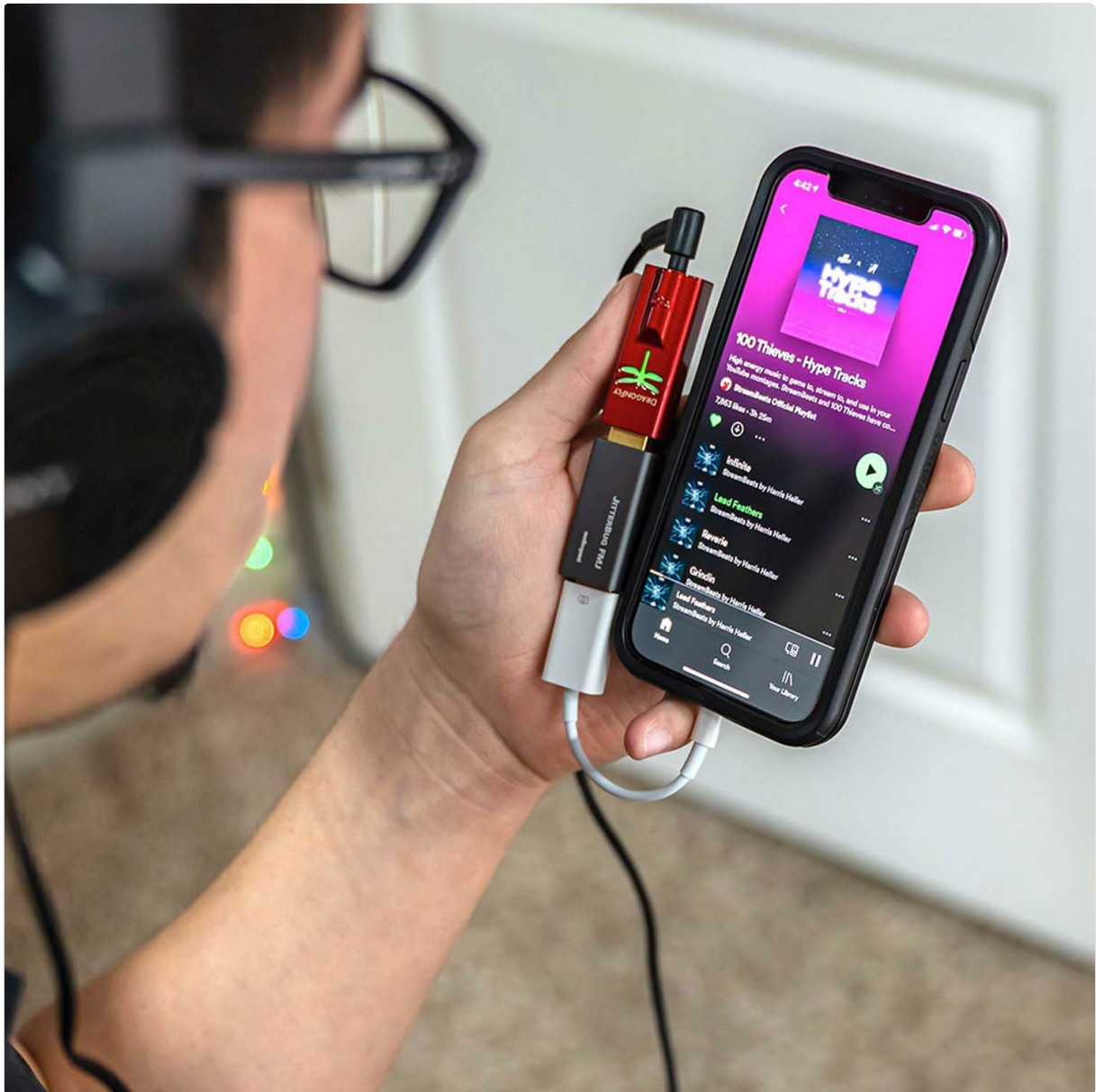

Image: A person holding a smartphone connected to the Dragonfly Red via an adapter, with headphones attached.

Once connected, ensure your mobile device recognizes the Dragonfly Red as the audio output. Some Android devices may require a third-party music player app that supports USB audio output.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Dragonfly Red operates automatically once connected and recognized by your device. Simply play your desired audio content, and the Dragonfly Red will process the digital signal and output enhanced analog sound through its 3.5mm jack.

5.1 Volume Control

The Dragonfly Red features a 64-bit bit-perfect digital volume control. When connected to a computer or mobile device, the volume controls of your source device will directly adjust the output level of the

Dragonfly Red. For optimal sound quality, it is recommended to set the source device's volume to maximum and then adjust the listening volume using the Dragonfly Red's internal volume control (which is linked to the source device's volume). This ensures the digital signal is passed to the DAC at its full resolution before attenuation.

6. UNDERSTANDING THE LED INDICATOR

The Dragonfly logo on the device illuminates in different colors to indicate the sampling rate of the audio being played:

- **Green:** 44.1 kHz (CD quality)
- **Blue:** 48 kHz
- **Amber:** 88.2 kHz
- **Magenta:** 96 kHz (High-resolution audio)

Image: The Dragonfly Red with its protective cap removed, revealing the USB connector and the illuminated dragonfly logo, which indicates the current sampling rate.

This visual feedback allows you to confirm that your audio is being processed at the expected resolution.

7. MAINTENANCE

- Keep the Dragonfly Red clean by wiping it with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents.
- Store the device in its provided leatherette pouch when not in use to protect it from dust and scratches.
- Avoid exposing the device to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight.
- Handle the USB connector and 3.5mm jack with care to prevent damage. Consider using a short USB extension cable (e.g., AudioQuest DragonTail) when connecting to laptops to reduce strain on the USB port and the device itself.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

8.1 No Sound Output

- Ensure the Dragonfly Red is securely plugged into the USB port of your source device.
- Verify that your headphones or audio system are correctly connected to the Dragonfly Red's 3.5mm output.
- Check your computer's or mobile device's sound settings to confirm that the Dragonfly Red is selected as the default audio output device.
- Increase the volume on both your source device and the connected headphones/audio system.
- Try restarting your computer or mobile device.
- If using a mobile device, ensure your adapter is compatible and supports OTG functionality. Some Android devices may require a specific music player app.

8.2 Intermittent Audio or Static

- Ensure all connections are firm and secure. Loose connections can cause audio interruptions.
- Test with different headphones or cables to rule out faulty accessories.
- If connected to a laptop, consider using a short USB extension cable to reduce physical strain on the USB port and potential interference.
- Minimize other USB devices connected to the same hub or computer, as power fluctuations can sometimes affect performance.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
DAC Chip	32-Bit SABRE DAC
Output Voltage	2.1 Volts
Supported Sample Rates	44.1 kHz, 48 kHz, 88.2 kHz, 96 kHz (up to 24-bit)
MQA Support	Yes
Input Interface	USB Type-A
Output Interface	3.5mm Headphone Jack
Dimensions	2.44 x 0.75 x 0.47 inches

Weight	3.5 ounces

10. OFFICIAL PRODUCT VIDEO

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: An official product overview of the AudioQuest Dragonfly Red USB DAC/Headphone Amplifier, demonstrating its features and connectivity.

11. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

AudioQuest products are designed for reliability and performance. For specific warranty information and support, please refer to the official AudioQuest website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For further assistance, visit the AudioQuest Store on Amazon.