

Audiolab M-DACPLUSBK

Audiolab AAV-MDACPLUS Digital Audio Converter Pre-Amplifier User Manual

Model: M-DACPLUSBK

INTRODUCTION

The Audiolab M-DAC+ is a high-performance, multi-purpose audio Digital-to-Analogue Converter (DAC) designed for both desktop and integrated hi-fi system use. It features a high-quality digital preamplifier and a Class A output stage, allowing direct connection to a power amplifier and speakers. Additionally, it includes a dedicated high-quality output for headphone use. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your M-DAC+.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read all safety instructions before operating the M-DAC+. Keep this manual for future reference.

- Do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.
- Do not place objects filled with liquids, such as vases, on the unit.
- Do not block ventilation openings. Ensure adequate airflow around the unit.
- Do not place the unit near heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in the packaging:

- Audiolab M-DAC+ Unit
- Power Cable
- Remote Control
- User Manual (this document)

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Front Panel

The front panel of the M-DAC+ features essential controls and a display for easy operation.



Figure 1: Front Panel of the Audiolab M-DAC+

This image displays the front of the Audiolab M-DAC+, highlighting the central display screen, the 'SEL' (Select) knob on the left, the 'VOL' (Volume) knob on the right, the 6.35mm headphone output jack, and the power button.

1. **Headphone Output:** 6.35mm jack for connecting headphones.
2. **SEL (Select) Knob:** Used to navigate menus and select inputs.
3. **Display Screen:** Shows current input, volume level, and menu options.
4. **VOL (Volume) Knob:** Adjusts the output volume.

5. **Power Button:** Turns the unit on or off.

Rear Panel

The rear panel provides all necessary input and output connections for integrating the M-DAC+ into your audio system.



Figure 2: Rear Panel of the Audiolab M-DAC+

This image shows the rear panel of the Audiolab M-DAC+, detailing the power input, digital inputs (USB, Coaxial, Optical), analog outputs (RCA and XLR), and trigger connections.

1. **Power Input:** Connect the supplied power cable here.
2. **USB Input:** For connecting to a computer or other USB audio source.
3. **Coaxial Inputs (COAX1, COAX2):** For connecting digital audio sources via coaxial cables.
4. **Optical Inputs (OPT1, OPT2):** For connecting digital audio sources via optical (TOSLINK) cables.
5. **AES/EBU Input (AES3):** Professional digital audio input.
6. **Analog Outputs (RCA, XLR):** For connecting to an amplifier, preamplifier, or powered speakers. XLR provides balanced output.
7. **Trigger In/Out:** For synchronized power control with other compatible audio components.

SETUP

Placement

Place the M-DAC+ on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive moisture. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit to prevent overheating.

Connecting to Power

1. Ensure the M-DAC+ power switch is in the OFF position.
2. Connect the supplied power cable to the power input on the rear panel of the M-DAC+.
3. Plug the other end of the power cable into a suitable AC wall outlet.

Connecting Audio Sources

The M-DAC+ supports various digital audio inputs:

- **USB:** Connect a USB cable from your computer or digital audio player to the USB input on the M-DAC+.
- **Coaxial:** Use a digital coaxial cable to connect your source (e.g., CD player, streamer) to either COAX1 or COAX2 input.
- **Optical:** Use an optical (TOSLINK) cable to connect your source to either OPT1 or OPT2 input.
- **AES/EBU:** For professional audio equipment, connect an AES/EBU cable to the AES3 input.

Connecting to an Amplifier/Speakers

The M-DAC+ can be connected to a power amplifier, integrated amplifier, or powered speakers.

- **RCA Outputs:** Use RCA interconnect cables to connect the M-DAC+ RCA outputs to the analog inputs of your amplifier.
- **XLR Outputs:** For balanced connections, use XLR cables to connect the M-DAC+ XLR outputs to the balanced inputs of your amplifier. This is recommended for longer cable runs or in environments with potential electrical interference.

The M-DAC+ has a built-in preamplifier. You can choose to use its variable output (for direct connection to a power amp) or a fixed output (if connecting to an existing preamplifier or integrated amplifier). Refer to the Operating section for details on output mode selection.

Connecting Headphones

Plug your headphones into the 6.35mm headphone jack on the front panel. The M-DAC+ features a high-quality Class A headphone amplifier.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Powering On/Off

- To power on the M-DAC+, press the Power button on the front panel. The display will illuminate.
- To power off, press the Power button again.

Input Selection

Rotate the 'SEL' (Select) knob on the front panel to cycle through available digital inputs (USB, COAX1, COAX2, OPT1, OPT2, AES3). The selected input will be shown on the display.

Volume Control

Rotate the 'VOL' (Volume) knob to adjust the output volume. The current volume level will be displayed. When headphones are connected, the volume knob controls the headphone output level.

Menu Navigation and Settings

The M-DAC+ offers various settings accessible via the menu system. Press the 'SEL' knob to enter the menu. Rotate the 'SEL' knob to navigate through options and press to select. Rotate the 'VOL' knob to change values within a selected option.
Key settings may include:

- **Digital Filters:** The M-DAC+ provides several user-selectable digital filters to tailor the sound to your preference. Experiment with these to find the one that best suits your listening environment and music.
- **Output Mode:** Switch between variable output (for direct connection to a power amplifier) and fixed output (for connection to a preamplifier).
- **Display Brightness:** Adjust the brightness of the front panel display.
- **Jitter Rejection:** Advanced settings for optimizing clocking.

Remote Control Operation

The supplied remote control duplicates most front panel functions, allowing convenient operation from your listening position. Refer to the remote control's diagram for button functions.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosols.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the ventilation slots on the top and sides of the unit are not obstructed.
- **Storage:** If storing the unit for an extended period, disconnect it from power and store it in a cool, dry place.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your M-DAC+, consult the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cable not connected; Power outlet faulty; Unit fuse blown.	Check power cable connection; Try a different outlet; Contact service for fuse replacement.
No sound output	Incorrect input selected; Volume too low; Amplifier not powered on/incorrect input; Mute engaged.	Select correct input; Increase volume; Check amplifier status and input; Disable mute.
Distorted sound	Source signal too high; Cable issues; Digital filter setting.	Check source output level; Replace cables; Experiment with digital filter settings.
USB connection not recognized	Drivers not installed (for PC); Incorrect USB cable; USB input not selected.	Install necessary USB drivers from Audiolab website; Use a high-quality USB cable; Select USB input on M-DAC+.

If the problem persists, please contact Audiolab customer support or your authorized dealer.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Audiolab
Model Number	M-DACPLUSBK
Product Dimensions	4.4 x 9.7 x 11.5 inches
Item Weight	13.2 Pounds
Mounting Type	Coaxial, Plug Mount, On A Desk
Number of Channels	1
Interface Type	USB, Coaxial
Manufacturer	Audiolab

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Audiolab products are manufactured to the highest standards and undergo rigorous quality control. This product is covered by a manufacturer's warranty, the terms of which may vary by region. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical support, service, or warranty inquiries, please contact your authorized Audiolab dealer or visit the official Audiolab website for contact information and support resources.

Official Audiolab Website: www.audiolab.co.uk