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iFi Pro iDSD Signature

iFi Pro iDSD Signature Instruction Manual

Model: Pro iDSD Signature

1. INTRODUCTION

The iFi Pro iDSD Signature is a versatile audio device functioning as a Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC), headphone amplifier, and network streamer. This manual provides comprehensive instructions for its setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting to ensure optimal performance and user experience.

2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please verify that all the following items are present in your product box:

An image displaying the iFi Pro iDSD Signature unit, remote control, user manual, optical adapter, RCA cables, USB cable, Wi-Fi antenna, iPower Elite power supply, and a small tool.

- iFi Pro iDSD Signature Unit
- iPower Elite Power Supply
- Remote Control
- USB 3.0 Cable
- RCA Interconnect Cables
- Optical Adapter
- Wi-Fi Antenna
- User Manual and Warranty Card
- Small Tool (for filter selection)

3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The iFi Pro iDSD Signature is engineered to deliver high-fidelity audio from a multitude of digital sources. It integrates advanced digital-to-analog conversion, a powerful headphone amplifier with selectable tube/solid-state modes, and network streaming capabilities. Its robust design and comprehensive feature set make it a central component for any high-end audio system.

A front view of the iFi Pro iDSD Signature unit, showcasing its silver finish, central display, control knobs, and headphone jacks.

4. CONTROLS AND INDICATORS (FRONT PANEL)

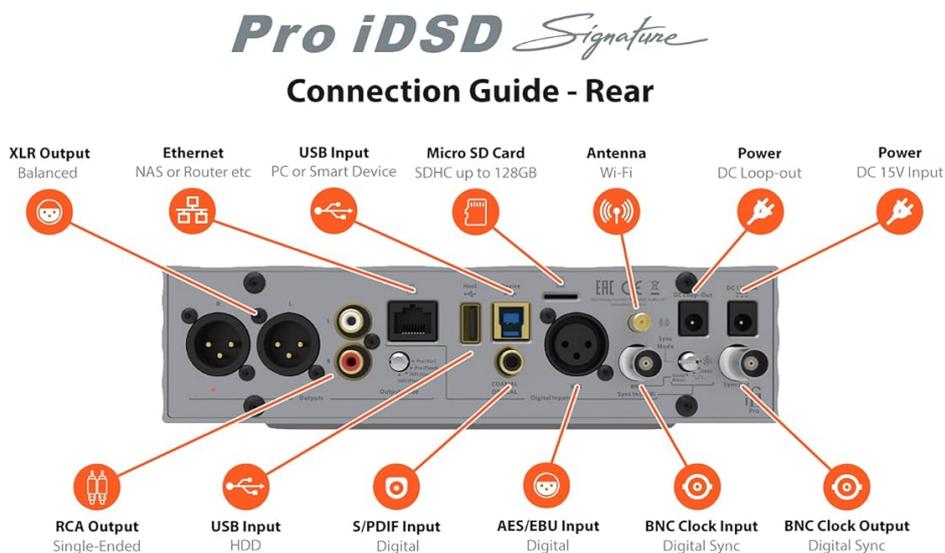The front panel provides access to essential controls and displays operational status.

An annotated diagram of the iFi Pro iDSD Signature's front panel, highlighting the 6.3mm Single-Ended, 3.5mm S-Balanced, and 4.4mm Balanced headphone outputs.

- **Input Selector:** Rotates to select the active digital input source.
- **Filter/Mode Selector:** Adjusts digital filter settings and amplifier modes (Solid-State, Tube, Tube+).
- **Display:** Shows current input, sample rate, and selected filter/mode.
- **Volume Control:** Large rotary knob for adjusting output volume.
- **Gain Switch:** Selects headphone gain level (0dB, +9dB, +18dB).
- **Headphone Outputs:** Includes 6.3mm (Single-Ended), 3.5mm (S-Balanced), and 4.4mm (Balanced) jacks.

5. CONNECTIONS (REAR PANEL)

The rear panel houses all input and output connections for integrating the unit into your audio system.

An annotated diagram of the iFi Pro iDSD Signature's rear panel, showing XLR Output, Ethernet, USB Input (PC/Smart

- **XLR Output:** Balanced analog audio output for connection to amplifiers or active speakers.
- **RCA Output:** Single-ended analog audio output.
- **Ethernet:** RJ45 port for wired network connection and streaming.
- **USB Input (PC/Smart Device):** USB Type B port for connecting to a computer or smart device.
- **USB Input (HDD):** USB Type A port for connecting external USB storage devices.
- **Micro SD Card Slot:** For direct playback from SDHC cards up to 128GB.
- **S/PDIF Input:** Coaxial and Optical digital audio input.
- **AES/EBU Input:** Balanced digital audio input.
- **BNC Clock Input/Output:** For external clock synchronization.
- **Wi-Fi Antenna:** Connection point for the included Wi-Fi antenna.
- **DC 15V Input:** Power input for the iPower Elite power supply.
- **DC Loop-out:** Provides power to other iFi devices.

6. INITIAL SETUP

Follow these steps for the initial setup of your Pro iDSD Signature:

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the iPower Elite power supply to the DC 15V input on the rear panel of the Pro iDSD Signature. Plug the iPower Elite into a wall outlet.
2. **Antenna Installation:** Screw the Wi-Fi antenna securely onto its designated port on the rear panel.
3. **Source Connection:**
   - **USB:** Connect your computer or smart device to the USB Input (PC/Smart Device) using a high-quality USB cable. For external hard drives, use the USB Input (HDD).
   - **Ethernet:** For network streaming, connect an Ethernet cable from your router to the Ethernet port on the rear panel.
   - **Digital Coaxial/Optical/AES/EBU:** Connect your digital audio source (e.g., CD player, TV) to the corresponding input on the rear panel.
4. **Output Connection:**
   - **Headphones:** Plug your headphones into the appropriate 6.3mm, 3.5mm, or 4.4mm jack on the front panel.
   - **Analog Outputs:** Connect the XLR (balanced) or RCA (single-ended) outputs to your amplifier or active speakers.
5. **Power On:** Press the power button on the front panel to turn on the unit. The display will illuminate.

7. OPERATING MODES

The Pro iDSD Signature offers various modes to customize your listening experience.

7.1 Input Selection

Use the 'Input' knob on the front panel to cycle through and select your desired audio source (e.g., USB, Ethernet, S/PDIF, AES/EBU, Micro SD).

7.2 Digital Filters

The 'Filter' knob allows selection of various digital filters to tailor the sound to your preference. The active filter will be indicated on the front display. Experiment with different filters to find the one that best suits your audio content and listening taste.

7.3 Amplifier Modes (Tube/Solid State)

The Pro iDSD Signature features a unique ability to switch between different amplification modes:

- **Solid-State:** Provides a clean, transparent, and highly accurate sound reproduction.
- **Tube:** Engages the built-in tube stage, introducing the characteristic warmth, naturalness, and harmonic richness associated with tube amplification.
- **Tube+:** Enhances the tube effect for a more pronounced and immersive sonic experience.

Use the dedicated switch on the front panel to select your preferred amplifier mode.

7.4 Volume Control

Adjust the output volume using the large 'Volume' knob. Always ensure the volume is set to a low level before playing audio to prevent potential damage to headphones or speakers.

7.5 Network Streaming

When connected via Ethernet or Wi-Fi, the unit can stream audio from various services and local network storage. Use compatible DLNA/UPnP applications on your smart device or computer to control playback. The unit supports Airplay network audio playback from Apple devices and DLNA network audio playback from smartphones, tablets, Windows/Linux computers.

8. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Pro iDSD Signature.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or chemical sprays, as these can damage the finish.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block any ventilation slots or place the unit in an enclosed space without proper air circulation.
- **Power Supply:** Always use the provided iPower Elite power supply. Using unauthorized power adapters may damage the unit and void your warranty.
- **Tube Care:** If you frequently use the tube amplification modes, allow the tubes to warm up for a few minutes after powering on and cool down after powering off. Vacuum tubes have a finite lifespan and may require replacement over time. Consult iFi support for tube replacement guidelines.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Avoid exposing the unit to extreme temperatures, humidity, dust, or direct sunlight.

9. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Pro iDSD Signature, refer to the table below for common problems and solutions.
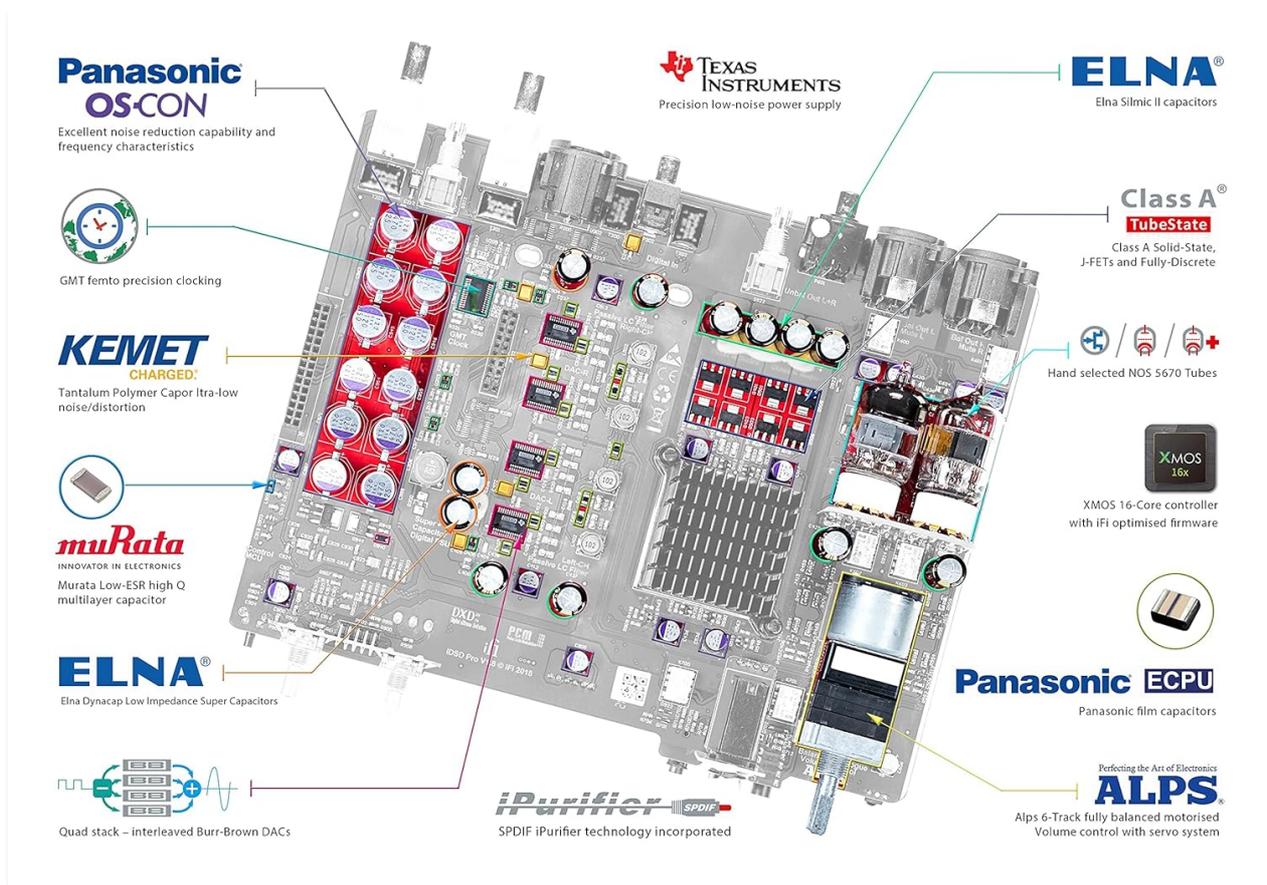
Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound	Incorrect input selected.	Verify the correct input source is selected on the front panel.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound	Volume too low.	Increase the volume gradually using the volume knob.
No Sound	Audio cables or power supply not connected properly.	Check all audio and power cable connections on both the Pro iDSD Signature and connected devices.
Distorted Sound	Source audio quality is poor or file is corrupted.	Try a different audio source or a known good audio file.
Distorted Sound	Incorrect gain setting for headphones/speakers.	Adjust the gain setting on the front panel to match the impedance and sensitivity of your headphones or the input requirements of your amplifier.
Network Streaming Issues	Poor Wi-Fi signal, incorrect network settings, or Ethernet connection problem.	Ensure the Wi-Fi antenna is securely attached or the Ethernet cable is properly connected. Check your network router and device settings. Restart the unit and your network equipment.
Unit does not power on	Power supply not connected or faulty.	Ensure the iPower Elite is securely connected to the unit and a working power outlet. Test the outlet with another device.

If issues persist after attempting these solutions, please contact iFi customer support for further assistance.

10. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical details of the iFi Pro iDSD Signature:

An internal view of the iFi Pro iDSD Signature's circuit board, highlighting key components such as Panasonic OS-CON capacitors, Texas Instruments power supply, ELNA Silmic II capacitors, Class A TubeState circuitry, KEMET Tantalum Polymer capacitors, Murata low-ESR multilayer capacitors, XMOS 16-Core controller, and ALPS motorized volume control.

- **Model:** Pro iDSD Signature
- **Brand:** iFi
- **Product Dimensions (Unit):** 8.66"L x 8.39"W (220mm x 213mm)
- **Weight:** Approximately 9.74 lbs (4.42 kg)
- **Number of Channels:** 2
- **Interface Type:** USB
- **Manufacturer:** Abbingdon Music Research
- **Date First Available:** August 10, 2021
- **ASIN:** B09C8J47KY
- **Digital Inputs:** USB (Type B, Type A for HDD), Ethernet (RJ45), S/PDIF (Coaxial/Optical), AES/EBU (XLR), BNC Clock Input.
- **Analog Outputs:** Balanced XLR, Single-Ended RCA.
- **Headphone Outputs:** 6.3mm Single-Ended, 3.5mm S-Balanced, 4.4mm Balanced.
- **DAC Architecture:** Quad-stack, interleaved Burr-Brown DACs.
- **Amplifier Modes:** Solid-State, Tube, Tube+ selectable.
- **Wireless Connectivity:** Wi-Fi (with external antenna).
- **Local Storage:** Micro SD Card slot (supports SDHC up to 128GB).
- **Clock System:** GMT femto clocking, BNC Clock Input/Output.

11. WARRANTY AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

The iFi Pro iDSD Signature comes with a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included

in your package for specific terms, conditions, and registration details. Retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or warranty claims, please visit the official iFi website or contact their customer support directly. You may also find additional resources and frequently asked questions on the [iFi Store on Amazon](#).

iFi is committed to providing high-quality audio products and support to its customers.