



## D50 User Manual





Congratulations on your new Hegel D50.

Hegel has been making award-winning audio products for more than 25 years. We are proud of our legacy of creating great-sounding amplifiers. We believe a significant part of our success is that all Hegel products are developed from the ground up by our team in Oslo, Norway. This allows us to use cost-efficient components without compromising on quality and performance and to integrate advanced technologies exclusive to Hegel.

All Hegel products are based on a simple philosophy: Add as little as possible. We work to keep the music signal as close to the original as possible. We are always looking for ways to lower distortion and noise so that the music is only limited by the quality of the recording.

With the D50, we have created a Digital to Analog Converter that is truly a testament to our goal of making high-quality products that push the limits of what can be achieved in audio reproduction. To achieve this, we have avoided anything that would introduce noise. This means there is no network input, streamer, or preamplifier. By focusing solely on converting digital signals into music, we have created a machine that represents the pinnacle of digital-to-analog conversion. The D50 delivers music as it was meant to be heard—pure, detailed, and profoundly moving. Let it take your music to new heights.

Bent Holter  
Founder Hegel Music System

## Index

A word from Bent	2
What's in the box	4
Quickstart	5
General Use	8
Connections	9
Digital Inputs and Formats	10
Device Menu	11
Remote Control	12
General Information	13
Safety Instructions	14
Warranty and Disclaimers	15

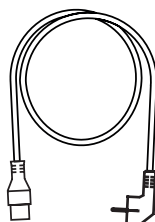


Before powering on the DAC, make sure you have read  
and understood the safety instructions and warnings  
found on [support.hegel.com](http://support.hegel.com)

## What's in the box



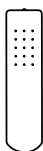
Digital to Analog  
Converter



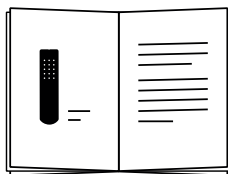
Power Cord



Accessory Box



Remote  
Control

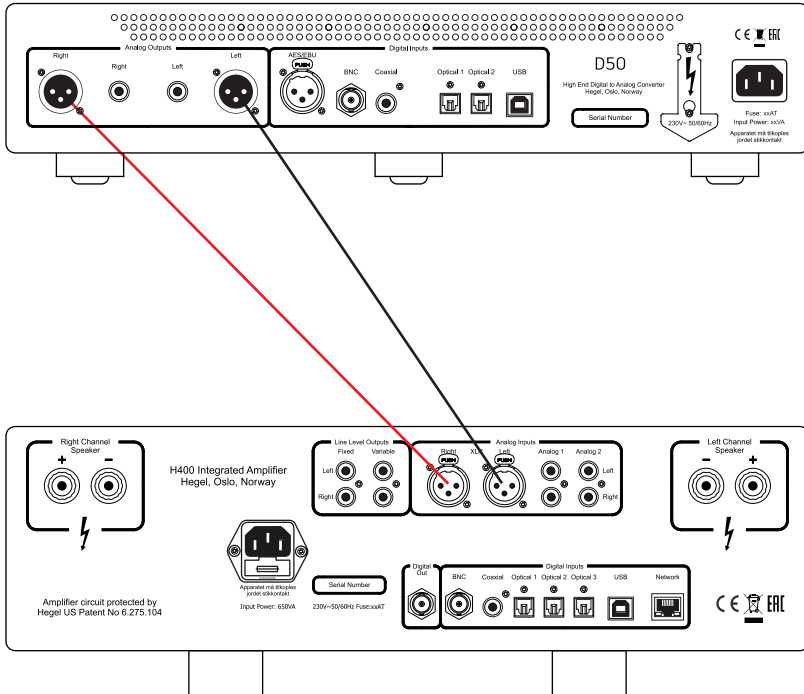


User Manual

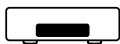
# Quickstart

## 1. Connect to your amplifier

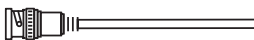
For the highest level of sound quality, we recommend using the balanced XLR outputs.



## 2. Connect a source



AES/EBU



BNC Digital

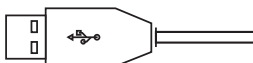


Coaxial Digital

BNC

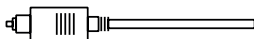


Coaxial



USB Computer

USB

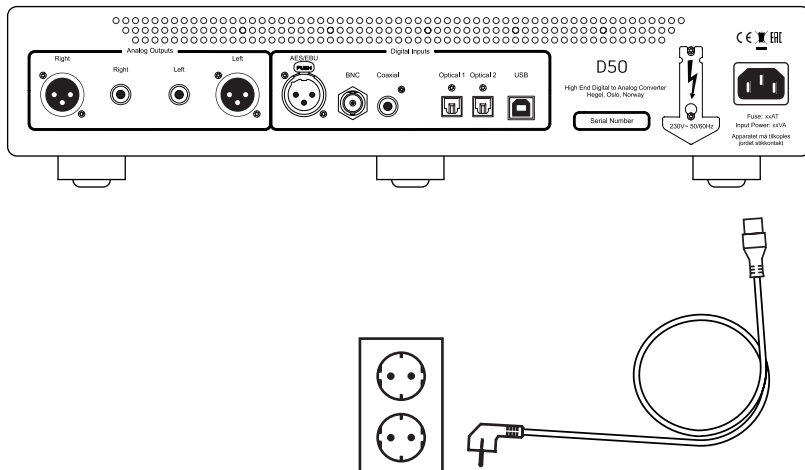


Optical Digital

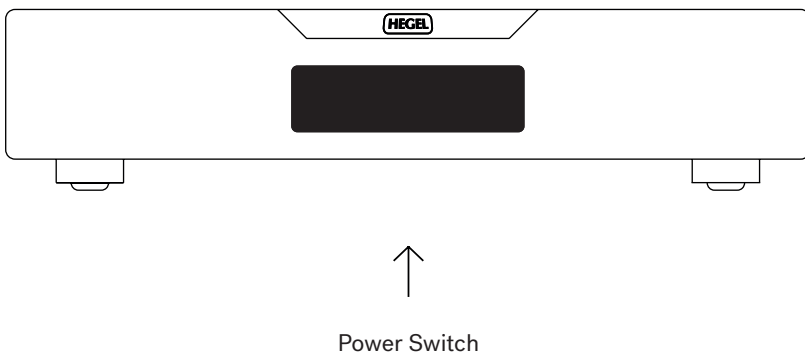
Optical 1 Optical 2



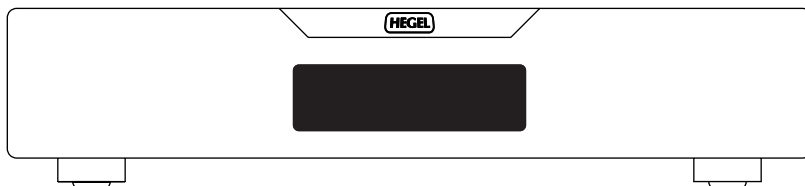
### 3. Connect the power cord



### 4. Power up the D50

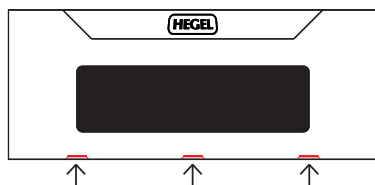


## General Use



### Button layout

The 3 buttons used to operate the D50 are located on the underside of the DAC under the display.



### Power Button

The D50 DAC can be switched on and off with the power button located in the middle. When powered on, press and hold the power button to enter the menu. When in the menu, this button can be pressed to select or enter submenus.

### Source Selectors

The source can be changed by pressing the left or right source selectors located under either corner of the display. When in the menu, these buttons can be pressed to navigate the menu.

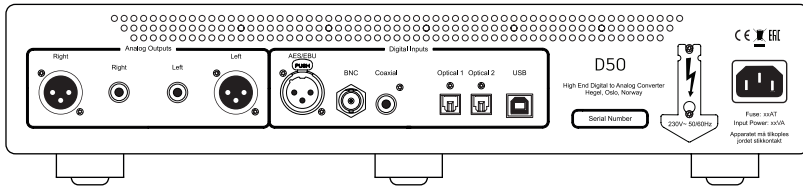
### Sleep/Auto standby

In compliance with the EU Energy Efficiency Directive, the Hegel device will automatically go into standby mode after 15 minutes without sensing a signal. You can disable or change the Sleep/ Auto Standby settings in the [Device Menu](#). When in standby, a small light in the bottom left corner of the display is lit.

**NOTE:** When powering up, the D50 takes a few seconds to calibrate. This is normal and is part of the start-up procedure. When the D50 has been switched off, wait 30 seconds before powering it on again.



# Connections



Always power the D50 off before connecting input/output audio cables and the power cable.

## Analog Outputs

- XLR: Fixed balanced analog output
- RCA: Fixed unbalanced analog output

The DAC has two types of analog audio outputs: unbalanced audio output (RCA) and true balanced audio output (XLR). For the highest level of sound quality, we recommend using the balanced XLR outputs.

## Digital Inputs

- AES/EBU: Input AES/EBU
- BNC: Input BNC
- Coaxial: Input Coaxial/RCA
- Optical1: Input TOSLINK/EIAJ Optical
- Optical2: Input TOSLINK/EIAJ Optical
- Computer USB input

**NOTE:** XLR Pin Configuration:

Pin 1 is chassis ground, pin 2 is positive phase and pin 3 is negative phase.

## Mains Power Connection

Mains power connector: 230V/115V

### WARNING:

Using the wrong voltage can cause serious damage to your product and will void the warranty! See voltage rating on the device.

## Digital Inputs and Formats

### Input sense

All digital inputs have input sense. This must be enabled in the menu. When the D50 detects a signal it will turn on and switch to the active input.

Please visit [support.hegel.com](https://support.hegel.com) for a detailed description.



### Maximum supported resolution

Coax/BNC:	24/192 + DSD64(DoP)
AES/EBU:	24/192 + DSD64(DoP)
Optical:	24/96
USB:	32/384 + DSD256(DoP)

### USB

The D50 has a plug-and-play USB connection that is designed to work with computers. Connect it to your PC or Mac and enjoy all your music.

### MQA (Master Quality Authenticated)

Hegel D50 includes MQA technology, which enables you to play back MQA audio files and streams, delivering the sound of the original master recording.

"MQA" or "MQA." in the display indicates that the product is decoding and playing an MQA stream or file, and denotes provenance to ensure that the sound is identical to that of the source material. "MQA." indicates it is playing an MQA Studio file, which has either been approved in the studio by the artist/producer or has been verified by the copyright owner. "OFS" confirms that the product is receiving a decoded MQA stream or file. This delivers the final unfold of the MQA file and displays the original sample rate.

Hegel D50 supports up to MQA 8X (352.8kHz/384kHz)

Visit [mqa.co.uk](https://mqa.co.uk) for more information.

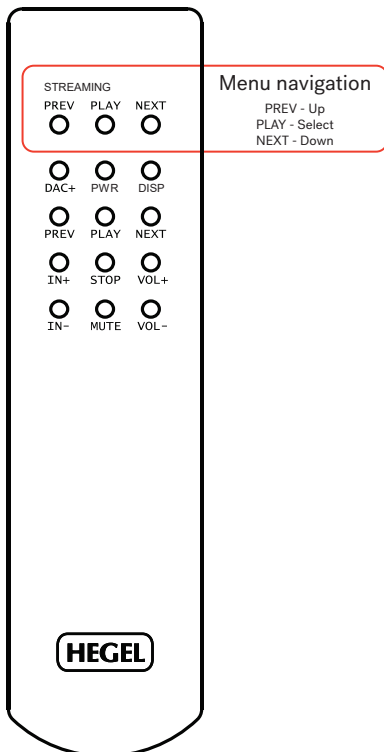


## Device Menu

### Navigation

To enter the device menu, turn on the Hegel device and press and hold the STREAMING PLAY button for 5 seconds. To navigate the menu, use the PREV and NEXT buttons.

To select a sub-menu or feature, press the PLAY button. To exit the menu, navigate to "Exit" and press PLAY. You can also use the power and source selector buttons on the D50 to enter and navigate the device menu. See [General Use](#).



### Info

Information about the hardware and firm-ware version.

### Sleep

By default, this Hegel device will automatically go into standby mode after 15 minutes without music. The Sleep timer can be adjusted or disabled in this menu.

### Display

Change the display brightness and default on/off settings. When off, the display will light up momentarily when changing inputs or pressing DISP on the remote.

### Auto In

Change how the device operates when receiving a digital signal or an audio signal. Configure auto input switching, and wake from standby.

**NOTE:** Wake from standby is not supported on the AES/EBU input.

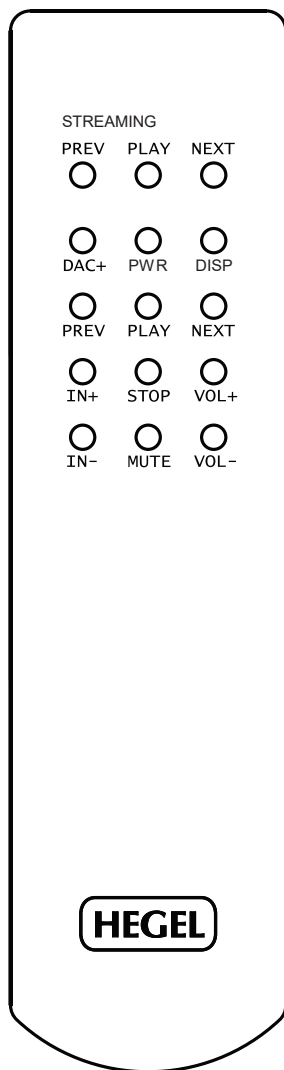
### Reset

Reset the product to the default factory settings.

### Exit

Exit the menu

## Remote Control - RC8



### Remote control buttons

<b>PREV</b>	Skip backward on compatible USB devices
<b>PLAY</b>	Play/Pause on compatible USB devices
<b>NEXT</b>	Skip forward on compatible USB devices
<b>DAC+</b>	Input selector on D50
<b>PWR</b>	Power on/Standby Hold to force power off
<b>DISP</b>	Wake/refresh display Hold for display off/on
<b>PREV</b>	Skip backward on CD-players Hold to rewind
<b>PLAY</b>	Play/Pause on CD-players
<b>NEXT</b>	Skip forward on CD-players Hold to fast-forward
<b>IN+</b>	Switch to next amplifier input
<b>STOP</b>	Stop on CD-players
<b>VOL+</b>	Volume up
<b>IN-</b>	Switch to previous amplifier input
<b>MUTE</b>	Mute on amplifiers
<b>VOL-</b>	Volume down

### General information

This Hegel device can be controlled with the included Hegel RC8 Remote Control. The RC8 also controls other Hegel products, such as CD players and preamplifiers, and most connected media players.

### Batteries

The remote control uses two standard 1.5-volt LR03 AAA batteries.

To insert the batteries, use a crosshead (Phillips) screwdriver to remove the back lid. When reassembling, be careful not to overtighten the screws.

# General Information

## Power

All electrical components should be turned off or set in standby mode when not in use. This is due to safety, because all electrical components can fail, and it is good for the environment. Leaving your product on all the time could also shorten the life expectancy of the product.

That being said, our products sound even better when they are warmed up, typically after about 15 minutes of use.

## Connecting your TV

The best way to connect your TV is by using one of the optical inputs. If there is no sound, try changing the sound output in the TV's settings menu. The setting should be changed to "optical" or "digital out" and the signal should be "PCM" or "stereo". Please consult your TV manual for detailed instructions. If you experience issues, try the Optical 2 input.

## Technical Specifications

### D50 Reference Digital to Analog Converter

Digital inputs	1x AES/EBU S/PDIF 24/192, DSD64(DoP), MQA 8x 1x Coaxial (BNC) S/PDIF 24/192, DSD64(DoP), MQA 8x 1x Coaxial (RCA) S/PDIF 24/192, DSD64(DoP), MQA 8x 2x Optical S/PDIF 24/96, MQA 8x 1x USB 32/384, DSD256(DoP), MQA 8x
Line level outputs	1x Unbalanced fixed (RCA), 2.5V 1x Balanced fixed (XLR), 2.5V
Analog bandwidth	0Hz-85kHz
Noise floor	Typically -150dB
Distortion	Less than 0.0002%
Power use in standby	<0.5W
Power use when on	<20W
Dimensions/weight	43 x 30.5 x 9.9 cm (HxWxD), 6.6 kg
Dimensions/weight US	17 x 12 x 3.9" (HxWxD), 14.55 lbs

## Safety Instructions

### Unpacking and Packing

Remove the top shock absorber. When lifting the device, avoid holding the knobs or connectors. Slide the bag off/on the device. When packing, make sure the bottom shock absorber is placed at the bottom of the original cardboard box. Place the device into the shock absorber. Place the top shock absorber on top of the device.

### Placement and Cooling

The Hegel device should be placed on a flat, hard surface for proper cooling. The device must never be placed on a carpet or similar surface as this obstructs air circulation through the unit. To maintain proper ventilation, leave a space of a minimum of 10 cm from the rear, top, and side panels of the device. The front side of the enclosure should be left open.

### Connecting the wires

Incorrect connections or damaged wires can cause short circuits, which can damage the device, cause electrical shock, and pose a fire hazard. Follow this manual's installation instructions and ensure all wires are connected correctly before connecting the power source.

### Proper use

Use the device only for its intended purpose and do not modify or misuse it in any way. The product is designed for indoor use only and must not be exposed to rain or moisture.

### Cleaning

Unplug the amplifier from the AC outlet before cleaning. Fingerprints or stains can be removed with a cloth slightly dampened with warm water or a mild detergent suitable for cleaning mirrors and windows.

### Power source

Only use the power source specified on the back panel and ensure the voltage matches the voltage in your area.

### Repair

Hegel products should only be opened or serviced by certified technicians. The devices contain electronic components that may cause severe electric shock. Work performed on Hegel products by unqualified personnel may cause serious damage or personal injury.

Opening the product by non-authorized personnel will void the warranty.

For a more details, please see our Multilingual Safety Instruction on [support.hegel.com](https://support.hegel.com)



# Warranty and Disclaimers

## Warranty

All Hegel products come with a 2-year warranty against defective materials and workmanship. The warranty is limited to the region where it was originally purchased. There is no need to register the warranty. The purchase receipt will work as a start date for the warranty.

In case you need assistance with your Hegel product, please contact your nearest dealer or distributor. These are listed on our [web-site](#). Our dealers are carefully chosen for their expertise and should be able to help you with any Hegel-related issue.

You can of course always reach us directly by sending an email to [info@hegel.com](mailto:info@hegel.com) or by contacting us on our social media pages.

For more information about the D50, please visit [www.hegel.com](http://www.hegel.com)



## Disclaimers

MQA and the Sound Wave Device are registered trademarks of Lenbrook Industries Ltd.© 2023.

Technical specifications, and features may change without notice.

Hegel Music System AS  
P.O. Box 26, Blindern  
NO-0314 Oslo, Norway

[info@hegel.com](mailto:info@hegel.com)  
[www.hegel.com](http://www.hegel.com)



V1



