

***DAC Trends UD-10.1 USB , Music server, Act I, scene 2,
the first step toward digital music***

We opened a topic, which explained the first steps or at least where to start?

In practice

So let's start at the beginning, a good base, accessible price, well made and innovative, high performance, I decided to start this second part devoted to developing a music server, using a Trends Audio DAC, USB model 10.1



Also in the same spirit and the same vein as the other products in the Trends, an aluminum screw, a mini size, low price without sacrificing performance.

Here is Byzantium, USB input and virtually all audio formats as output!

This UD-10.1 USB Audio Converter is both a DAC which can also use the headphone output.

However, for performance even more interesting, the best in truth, just to use interface and connect to an external DAC better and that's where it gets really great.

Before you talk about my personal experience with this DAC, I'll defer to those before me have tried their hand this "little" UD-10.1 USB DAC for \$ 199.

Object feature

It comes in the form of a rectangular aluminum, like the rest of the range.

There are 4 ways to use the DAC Trends USB Audio Converter.

1. As a "transport" Audiophile USB, meaning it can be used to connect digitally to another DAC performance.
2. USB sound card for PC and Mac
3. PC / Mac USB Headphone Amplifier
4. PC / Mac USB DAC

Suggested price: \$ 199 or \$ 225 with battery pack

The DAC provides output similar Trends 3.5mm Jack to connect directly to an amplifier through the adapter supplied as standard, Trends UD-10.1 USB audio converter also offers optical, two dedicated outputs Phono and BNC 75 ohms and a balanced digital output to connect to another DAC.

The operation can also be done via a battery, 4 x 1.2V AA batteries 4 for a total of 5 volts + charger are included, even the optional use of dedicated power supply, making it the perfect kit as we talked about during the test iCombo, I thought the idea was brilliant, only one power cord, 3 may be connected to the silence and the key, background noise almost inaudible.

The manufacturer states that it is important to observe the voltage of 5 volts, so make sure to use the batteries supplied backgrounds and not the 1.5 volts of the trade, could rise to 6 volts, which could have unfortunate consequences, especially on the sound quality.

There are two regulated power supplies, one for the digital part, the other for analog.





On the front of the camera we see a USB and a headphone output that can be transformed through an adapter into an analog stereo output, which I recommend at least not have any other choice, quality is average this bias.

At the rear is the main digital outputs, namely: 1 toslink optical, 1 AES / EBU (XLR 110 ohms Digital), 1 RCA and 1 BNC 75 ohms + 5V external power supply.

Trends chose Burr Brown PCM2704 IC's specific use USB for digital audio conversion.

The resolution is 16 bit / 44.1 to 48 kHz.

The supported audio formats: (manufacturer data)

Lossless: APE, FLAC, WMA Lossless, Apple Lossless and other

Uncompressed WAV, AIFF, PCM and other

Compressed MP3, AAC, Ogg Vorbis, MP2, Musepack, WMA and other

The opinion of Gilles Thibodeau (Montreal)

First I must specify that the supplied AC adapter had the wrong output jack so I can use it directly from the wall outlet.

So I loaded the 4 AA Ni-Mh 1.2V supplied a few hours so you can test.

I first heard the piece on my laptop, a Compaq R3215A headphone jack with 1 / 8. The pieces are from the cabinet Charlie Haden_The Montreal Tapes.

These songs recorded live have a structure quite seem natural and appropriate to test the DAC Trends Audio UD-10.1 USB

I listened with great attention the album no.5 cabinet.

The pieces have succeeded with a casualness and naturalness quite credible with the Trends.

Deep bass, natural mid a present and not overdone, as with the sound card on my laptop.

High proved accurate, fast and fun without the slight shine this while listening to the sound card on my laptop.

In sum, I would recommend this to anyone who wants to improve the grinding sound of the pieces recorded on its hard drive.

The user will notice an overall improvement throughout the record sound by passing favorably internal sound card on his computer.

Gilles, can you elaborate a little more technical aspect of how you "rip" your

music? What format did you use? What software did you use to rip your music before putting it on your hard drive?

I used the iTunes player for ripping music from cd. Wav format to retain the maximum detail and not alter its musicality.

It seemed to me that you had found your CD player, is that correct?

I compared the parts on my laptop, they returned with the DAC Trends and read original cd with my cd player and differences between them are undeniable. My cd player has restored the bass deep and firm.

It's like if the music back to life with a dynamic upper room and a wider and deeper.

Rendering the timbre of the instruments seemed more natural and separation between instruments on the soundstage more appropriate.

Nothing beats the original on a good CD player.

Even with the best music players on the server, I have not yet found a medium that can match a good old platinum cd quality!

Since my computer, I always note a certain "compression" of the musical message.

Is it a matter of software? DAC? anyway, only my CD players can render the entire proceedings of a good CD.

Until proven otherwise ...

Equipment used

Compak Notebook R3215CA 2003 under WinXP.

iTunes 4 software version 4.7.1.30 (I do not like iTunes 10. Less flexible and more commercial)

RCA cable money: High profile made in China.

CD-tube 12AX7 CD66e

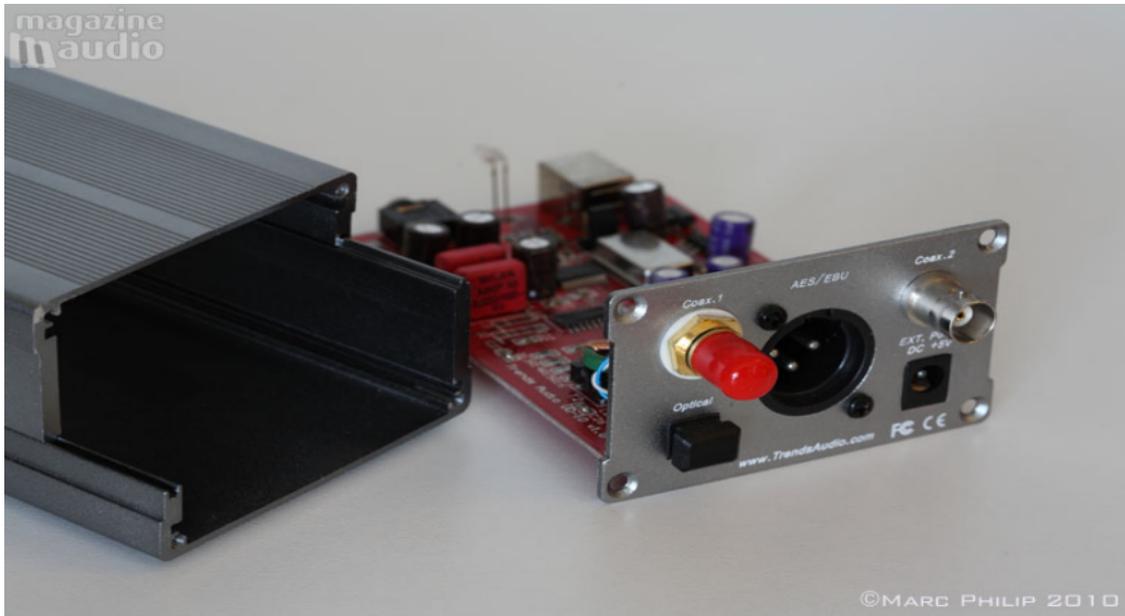
12AX7 preamp tubes with Angel Music GTaudion DIY upgrade.

DIY Gainclone 12W amp channel for high + lyrics

DIY amp channel 18W Class A for low

Speakers DIY 3-way JBL speakers

Pieces heard from the cabinet cd no5 Charlie Haden_The Montreal Tapes.



Testing the Trends Audio UD-10.1 seen by Gilbert.S (Quebec)
I classify this product as an external USB sound card for PC and MAC.

The UD-10.1 has very interesting outtings, including two coaxial digital outputs, one optical output and 1 RCA output. This involves having its own integrated DAC.

For someone who wants to play music directly from a PC or MAC, is a good option depending on the quality we are looking for.
The DAC has built only 16 bits, which is not in the portion of high performance DAC.

If you want good sound quality, first, the files used should not be compressed, such as AIFF or WAV or Flac. and. Lossless m4a.
Subsequently, it uses the USB digital converter (Trends Audio UD-10.1) at the output of the computer.
You plug the toslink or coaxial output to a DAC 24 bits or more.

This installation is successful.

The disappointing point of the UD-10.1 is the DAC is not as good in solo use.
When actually listening only, we detect a lack of clarity and very little stereo.

In conclusion, I would say that this product excels as a USB interface to digital

converter.

He begins to have such products on the market and I think it is a future for these small converters.

Test Protocol:

I compared the UD-10.1 with a Yamaya dac dsp-3090 24-bit

Choice of music heard:

Patricia Barber, Suzanne Vega, Pink Floyd, Eagles, Phil Collins, Celine Dion

Material:

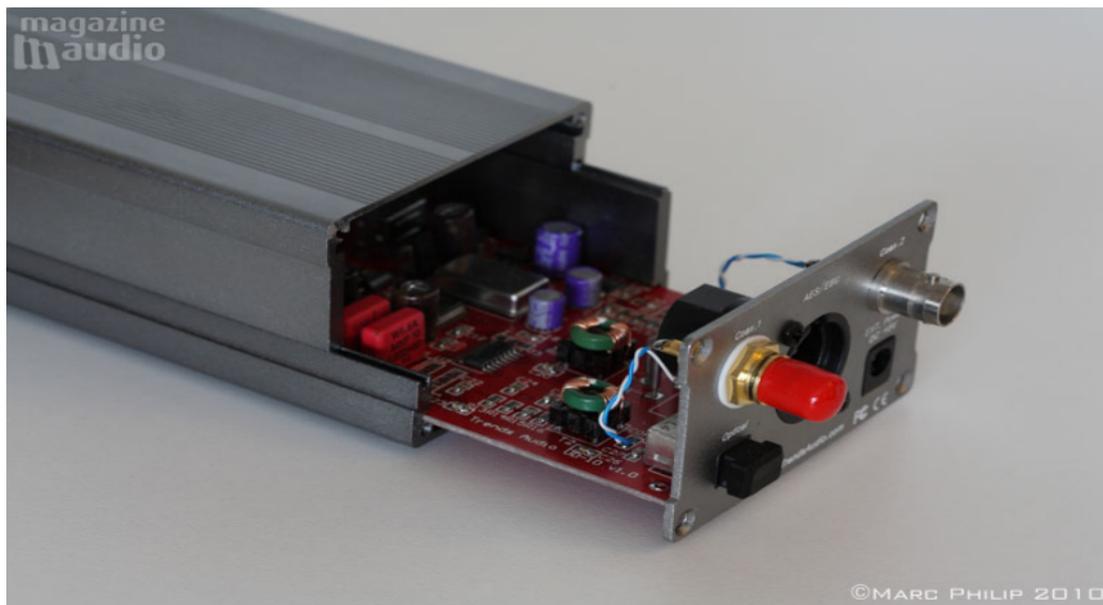
MacBook Yamaha dsp-A3090 headphones with Grado SR-225

MacBook with UD-10.1 USB son came with the product of the UD-10.1 to

Yamaha DSP-3090 fiber optic toslink

5B-UD-10.1 to Yamaha DSP-A3090 RCA Cardas son.

Gilbert.S



Personal opinion

With the experience of my colleagues, I used the DAC connected to its external power supply (option) that offers performance well beyond the standard basic-delivered, I recommend purchasing this power supply, it limits the son AC cord to a principal and then a little for each device with a color marker, because the voltage is different on each of them, this is really convenient to use.

I recognize that using the battery pack flange performance.



Music used for comparative listening on the site ANALEKTA, which offer free compare files. flac with mp3: <https://www.analekta.com/en/extras>

Then my personal collection:

We get request, Oscar Peterson Trio, K2 CD from First Impression Music 24/100kHz, ripped en.aiff. Flac and Apple Lossless. m4a

Test protocols

DAC Trends UD-10.1 USB DAC's receiver Yamaha RX-V 1065 (\$ 900)

DAC Trends UD-10.1 USB facing the Popcorn Hour NMT C200 (\$ 500)

I have deliberately limited the tests to consumer equipment using coaxial and optical output.

In a second time, I allowed myself the freedom to use the DAC Trends UD-10.1 to go to AES / EBU to my player Integris CDP powered by an Analog Devices AD1853 DAC that can handle files 24bit/192kHz.



Verdict on the DAC Trends UD-10.1 USB

Strengths / Strengths:

Performance / price ratio,
Full connectivity,
Headphone high quality,
Good USB interface.

Weaknesses / Cons:

No iPod dock station,
Battery supply improved,
No wifi,
Resolution in the average.



Conclusion

As the DAC UD-10.1 is average, however if it is used as an interface between the computer and another DAC, there is a different matter is the Swiss Army Knife of 'Laudio, because of the flexibility offered by its multiple audio outputs.

The problem of music cloud is released files from your PC with a USB cable without loss ... and that's where it gets a little complicated, hence the need to come to use an interface capable of carrying the audio signal from the computer to a DAC, a task which performs well on small Trends when connected to optional external power supply, with a caveat on the fact that the quality of the USB cord can influence the way significant.

Again, I think I made this observation during the test iCombo is the headphone that I liked the most, what silence, the absence of background noise is a treat.

Suggested price: \$ 199 or \$ 225 with battery pack

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