

# Rubicon ATOMIC AD/DA PREAMP

Rubicon is the world's first 384 kHz digital audio preamplifier, addressing the specific needs of high end consumer electronics enthusiasts for accurate audio representation and detailed soundstage of both analog and digital recordings. It is an AD/DA converter, phono stage preamp and headphone amplifier with an integrated atomic clock.

The Rubidium atomic clock is an extremely stable 10 MHz timing reference generator, 100,000 times more accurate than the traditional crystal oscillators.



The Atomic clock, teamed with Antelope Audio's most prominent jitter-management: Acoustically Focused Clocking and the stabilization provided by the Oven Controlled Clocking technologies achieve unprecedented levels of sound clarity, transparency and detail. The synergy among these technologies is proven by the extreme stability they demonstrate when used in professional AV gear for the post-production process of blockbusters such as Avatar and The Dark Knight Rises. Now, for the first time these technologies are placed in one box to bring a new level of sound quality to high end consumers.

In addition to the conversion function, Rubicon also offers transformer-based, ultra-low noise, discrete JFET phono preamp. This functionality together with the 384 kHz A/D conversion and the high resolution USB recording capability, provide the users with the sublime experience of digitizing their favorite tracks, while keeping the depth and the warmth of the original analog recordings. The custom USB chip, streaming up to 480 Mbits/384 kHz, providing high resolution recording capabilities is a signature Antelope Audio feature, originally developed for the finest professional recording and mastering studios.

Rubicon is the first audio device to literally eliminate the virtual boundary between analog and digital sound. Catering to the demands of both analog/vinyl lovers and fans of digital innovation, it is the first high-end device that provides such a number of features with such a high quality of audio representation. AB tests show that the stable clocking, custom-designed power supply and circuits in Rubicon



make the difference between digital and analog sound imperceptible to the human ear. In addition to the 384 kHz USB streaming, Rubicon offers extended flexibility and smooth user experience provided by the implemented DLNA capability. The DLNA functionality appeals to users who follow contemporary trends and take advantage of the newest mobile technologies. Using an Android or iOS-based smartphone or tablet, users can stream music from their mobile devices, computer or Network-attached storage (NAS) servers and play content through the high-sample rate DAC.

In addition, a dedicated mobile app allows the users to fully control the device – choose source, play/pause tracks, adjust volume etc.

Rubicon also offers an ultra linear, dual stage headphone amplification to deliver smooth sound at both high and low levels. Its custom design enables accurate monitoring with a wide range of headphone impedances and a dedicated volume knob.

A signature Antelope feature is the placement of the gold-plated stepped relay volume attenuator, matched to 0,05 dB in the analog domain, providing users with very accurate stereo balance even at the lowest volume levels.

The world's first Atomic AD/DA Preamp enters the home environment, providing listeners with exclusive sound clarity and unprecedented soundstage.



*The Antelope just had a realistically bolder, bigger, and more fully developed sound without ever being slow or sluggish. If ever there was an audiophile component that could be tagged as "most able to play well with others," this would certainly be it. The Antelope Zodiac is, quite simply, the best DAC plus headphone amp we've ever heard.*

*If I were to distill the Zodiac's sonic merits into just a couple of words, it'd be "crisp and clean"... What I heard was crystal clear extension with plenty of space or air around the notes. Most impressive sound-wise were the rhythm and timing of the music as well as the incredible sense of presence and extension of the treble.*

stereo  
mojo



*Every detail was crystal clear, magnified with ease, but not overblown. In some cases, I could even hear (or convince myself that I heard) the space around individual instruments and voices. It was like being inside the recording studio. But what's beyond any doubt is that this DAC is capable of injecting new life into your music. And in that respect, the Zodiac is truly heaven-sent.*

*The Zodiac+ has truly taken my home system into the 21st century. There is a clarity and a fullness in my system that I haven't heard before. It really helps me evaluate the work that I'm doing. With the Zodiac+, I hear an openness, transparency and depth that I've never heard before.*



Jim Anderson, professor at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University



*Antelope's Zodiac+ tilted the overall tonal balance into more fulsome bass, greater overall image density and a higher degree of copper and blood.*

*If refined resolution of dynamics, timing and image depth are your bag and you can use its preamp potential, then it's a bargain. It is extremely revealing. It's kind to lesser recordings and allows great ones to knock your socks off.*



*I was unprepared for my reaction when I switched to the Zodiac+. It was dramatic - the difference was not subtle. The mix was instantly more punchy and clear. There was a perceived increase of upper midrange and lower-high frequencies as compared to the other converters. It is loaded with technical innovations and built with audiophile philosophies such as separate power supplies and PCBs for its analog and digital circuits. Sonically, the Zodiac+ has a bold footprint - you will instantly hear a difference.*

*Antelope Audio's Zodiac Gold emerges as a very strong front runner...*

*The Zodiac Gold has all the earmarkings of being the only PC interface you'll need for the next five years whilst participating in streaming audio at a very high level. That's particularly apt with its excellent showing in amp-direct mode (there is one analog input too). For such applications the core mandates of analog-domain volume control, precise channel matching and remote convenience are all accounted for. This really makes one pause.*



*The Zodiac Gold is also well and truly detailed... With the Zodiac Gold, however, the sonic detail that is served up is the real thing - quite the opposite of the fake detail some gear foists off on unsuspecting listeners. Antelope Audio's Zodiac Gold with Voltikus combines a very low distortion DAC that treats the nuances of music carefully, with a highly neutral preamp and a solid headphone amp. If sonic accuracy is a paramount concern, the Zodiac Gold belongs high on your list for products to evaluate.*

*I was hardly prepared for the overwhelming moment when I found that the sonic qualities of the Zodiac Gold immediately recalled my memory of the recording sessions. The Zodiac GOLD is now our preferred DAC for proof listening our 352.8kHz/24bit stereo master files. Plug-and-play by USB from a MacBook makes it perfect for easy and portable play back in workshops.*



Morten Lindberg, multiple Grammy Awards Nominee and founder of 2L music label

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## HIGH-END AUDIO EQUIPMENT



## SUPREME AUDIO AT HOME AND IN THE STUDIO





## SUPREME AUDIO AT HOME AND IN THE STUDIO

The technologies developed for professional audio mastering and recording studios are now implemented in our series of DACs. Our digital to analog converters provide both the audiophile customer and the professional mastering engineer with one and the same high-definition audio. Thanks to our unique 64-bit clocking technology and the custom USB chip employed in each Antelope DAC, we can achieve a sample rate of up to 384 kHz. The elegant and sophisticated Integrity line brings a real high-definition audio into the audiophile's home environment.

## ZODIAC

World class audio technology for a demanding listener

Zodiac is a high definition USB digital to analog converter designed to enrich your home audio system at an affordable price. The DAC employs Antelope's proprietary 64-bit Acoustically Focused Clocking (AFC) and Oven Controlled Clocking, which define pro audio industry standards, bringing significant benefits to the detail, dynamics and stereo placement of the audio.

The sample rate of up to 192 kHz and 129dB Dynamic Range position Zodiac among devices in a considerably higher price range. The DAC features 2 x S/PDIF, 2 x optical inputs, balanced & unbalanced analog outputs and a high-speed USB 2.0 connectivity through a custom USB chip, working with native drivers.

## ZODIAC+

Pristine sonic detail combined with professional features

Zodiac+ is a high definition 192 kHz digital to analog converter created especially to suit the high demands of professional mastering engineers. The 64-bit clocking technology and Antelope Oven Clock employed in Zodiac+ are the same the company uses in its pro audio equipment for clients such as Warner Brothers, Universal Audio and Sony Music.

The DAC provides an openness, transparency and depth that enable professionals to monitor their work with high precision. This allows them to make accurate and creative decisions while mixing. Zodiac+ is equipped with de-jittered, re-clocked digital outputs, precision trim pots for balanced analog outs and balanced & unbalanced analog inputs.

## ZODIAC Gold

Exquisite audiophile sound with a matching touch of elegance

Zodiac Gold is Antelope's flagship USB D/A converter, providing exquisite audiophile sound. The DAC is among the very few on the market with 384 kHz audio streaming capability, thanks to the custom designed USB controller chip that streams digital audio up to 480 Mbits.

As a preamp, the device allows up to 8 input sources with auto-detection of active channels, providing the ease and flexibility to connect to virtually any device. A dual-stage headphone driver architecture unveils every sonic detail, while the relay based volume control ensures superb stereo imaging at any listening level.

## VOLTIKUS

PSU, perfectly matching Zodiac DACs in aesthetics and performance

Voltikus is a sleek heavy-duty Power Supply Unit (PSU), designed to perfectly match your Zodiac DAC. Carefully tailored to deliver uncompromised power, Voltikus helps Zodiac achieve the punch and sonic richness of deep lows, a full range of mids and tightly defined highs.

This degree of performance is accomplished by incorporating a hefty, custom-wound, electrostatically shielded toroidal transformer followed by a unique concept of three cascaded power regulators. A precision laser-trimmed voltage reference (LT1021) serves as the backbone of this discrete design, achieving the stability impossible with off-the-shelf voltage regulators.

ZODIAC High Definition 192kHz D/A Converter  
ZODIAC+ HD Mastering 192kHz D/A Converter  
ZODIAC Gold HD Audiophile 384kHz D/A Converter



### FEATURES

Custom USB Chip	✓	✓	✓
Audio streaming up to	192 kHz	192 kHz	384 kHz
Antelope Oven Clock for supreme stability	✓	✓	✓
64-bit Acoustically Focused Clocking	✓	✓	✓
Ultra Linear, Dual Stage Headphone Amps	✓	✓	✓
Level Display for Main Volume	✓	✓	✓
De-jittered, re-clocked Digital Audio Outputs	✓	✓	✓
Precision Trim Pots for Balanced Analog Outs	✓	✓	✓
Mute (soft dim & full mute)	✓	✓	✓
Mono summing function	✓	✓	✓
Separate Mute for headphones and main out	✓	✓	✓
Stepped Relay Volume Attenuator, accurate to 0.05 dB	✓	✓	✓
Switchable (120 or 0 Ohm) HP amp impedance	✓	✓	✓
Machined aluminum Remote Control	✓	✓	✓

### CONNECTIONS

2x S/PDIF coaxial Inputs	✓	✓	✓
2x Optical Toslink inputs	✓	✓	✓
USB connector	✓ (mini B type)	✓ (mini B type)	✓ (B type)
Balanced Analog Outputs on XLR	✓ (trimmable)	✓ (trimmable)	✓ (trimmable)
Unbalanced Analog Outputs on RCA	✓	✓	✓
AES/EBU Digital Input	✓	✓	✓
Word Clock Input on BNC	✓	✓	✓
Balanced Analog Inputs on 1/4" TRS	✓	✓	✓
Unbalanced Analog Inputs on RCA	✓	✓	✓
2x Headphone Outputs on 1/4" TRS	✓	✓	✓
De-jittered AES/EBU Output	✓	✓	✓
De-jittered 2x S/PDIF Outputs	✓	✓	✓
Audiophile Double-linear Power Supply option	✓	✓	✓

### ADD-ONS

OS X, Windows and Linux compatible Software Control Panel	✓	✓	✓
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### COLOR (front panel)

Silver	Black	Golden, Noir, Natural
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