

NAD Launches AirPlay Audio

Written by Marco Attard
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NAD Electronics reveals a trio of AirPlay-enabled audio products-- the D 3020 DAC/Amplifier, D 7050 Direct Digital Network Receiver, and D 1050 USB 24/192 DAC.



The D 3020 is a DAC/amplifier modeled after the late 1970's NAD 3020 integrated amplifier. It features built-in 2x30W Class D amplifier, stereo AptX Bluetooth connectivity, asynchronous USB input, subwoofer output, separate embedded headphone amp (with volume control), x2 optical, x2 coax digital and x1 analog inputs, remote and, of course, AirPlay streaming capability.

NAD describes the D 7050 digital network receiver as the first successful closed loop digital amplifier in the world-- meaning it compares output to input before compensating for any difference to achieve "perfect" output. DAC performance is 24/196 and the 2x50W amp uses pulse width modulation (PWM) and Direct Digital technology.

Other features include AirPlay, UPnP and Bluetooth audio capability, asynchronous USB input, x2 optical and x2 coax digital inputs (no analog inputs), remote, and headphone amplifier output.

The final new NAD DAC is the D 1050, an adapter allowing customers to add PC (via 3.5mm) and HD digital audio (S/PDIF, optical and coax) to traditional component hi-fi systems. The S/PDIF inputs support balanced AES/EBU, coaxial and optical connectors, while the USB input supports USB Audio Codec 2.0 for 192kHz signal transmission.

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In further NAD plans, the company also plans to ship its first headphone pair since the 1980s, the passive fold-flat Viso HP50, and an expansion of the Viso 1 single-chassis audio systems.

The company is taking orders for the 3 DACs, and should start shipping from July 2013.

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