

The logo for Bel Canto, featuring the brand name in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a green rectangular background.

Bel Canto's New Secret Weapon... The DAC3.5VB MK II!

The DAC3.5VB significantly raised the bar in digital playback. The core DAC technology, high dynamic range converters surrounded by Virtual Battery Power and Reference UltraClock™ anti-jitter filtration creates a pristine environment for D-to-A conversion to operate, isolated from the AC power grid and broadband jitter-induced noise on the digital inputs. Along with a totally transparent 24-bit volume control the DAC3.5VB MK II provides startling resolution, low noise, and incredible dynamic range.

But John Stronczer is always thinking how he can make things better. The DAC 3.5VB MK II upgrade delivers an improved analog supply that better isolates the PCM1792 DAC and a new low-phase-noise main clock oscillator. These changes reduce the already extremely low noise of the DAC3.5VB delivering a more engaging, musical and communicative sound. John enthuses, "We've taken the DAC3.5VB to the next level of performance!"

The DAC3.5VB MK II is loaded with inputs including 24/192 AES, ST Glass Fiber, BNC, Coaxial RCA, TOSLINK plus an Analog Line Level input. They all feature low-noise full galvanic isolation. Outputs are fully-balanced XLR and single-ended RCA connections. And there's an 8-character alpha-numeric display indicating Volume, Sample Rate and Input.

And how's the DAC3.5VB holding up? See *Stereophile's* Follow-Up in the January 2012 Issue, Pg.115: "The Goldilocks DAC in this shoot-out (Weiss DAC202 and dCS Debussy) was Bel Canto's e.One DAC3.5VB. It combined the honesty and resolution of the dCS Debussy with the soul of the Weiss DAC202. In terms of dynamics, the Bel Canto was as gripping as the dCS ... The Bel Canto, in my opinion, bested the dCS in terms of my involvement in the stereo image: through the DAC3.5VB, backgrounds were blacker, and instruments hung in greater 3D relief in the soundstage. I found the Bel Canto's tonal balance and slightly warmer sound to be a tad more musically rewarding than the Debussy's. And while the Weiss's tonal balance was sweeter still, the Bel Canto made up for it with grain-free clarity and impeccable delineation in the treble. I was shocked and happy that, of these three DACs, I liked the least expensive best." (Weiss DAC202 \$7,737, the Debussy \$10,999!)

The Wall Street Journal raves: "For bookshelf audiophiles who like their separate components down to the individual power supply, Bel Canto's full range of modular matching half-size power amps, CD players, FM tuners and digital-to-analog converters (for your PC music) is a dream come true. Though they're about as small as '80s-era microsystems, these handmade-in-Minneapolis stackables deliver enough sound and power for speakers 10 times their size."

DAC3.5 MK II Specifications

Digital Section

Maximum Data Input Rate:	
24bit Data at 192KS/s:	AES XLR, SPDIF BNC/RCA, ST Fiber, TOSLINK
Master Clock jitter:	2picosecond RMS

Analog 24/192 DAC Section

Maximum Output:	5.5 Vrms balanced XLR, 2.5 Vrms RCA
Output Impedance:	200 ohms balanced XLR, 100 ohms RCA
Frequency Response:	20 Hz-20 KHz, +/- 0.25dB
THD+N:	<0.0015%, 5.5Vrms balanced out, 1KHz
Output Noise:	3uVrms A-weighted 20Hz-20KHz
Dynamic Range:	126dB A-weighted 20Hz-20KHz

Analog 24/192 ADC Section

Maximum Input:	2.5 Vrms RCA
Input Impedance:	12K ohms RCA
THD+N:	0.003%, 2.5Vrms in, 1KHz
Dynamic Range:	110dB, A-weighted 20Hz-20KHz

General

Power Usage On:	8W
Power Usage Off:	0.0W
Power Requirement:	12VDC
Dimensions:	8.5" W x 12.5" D x 3.5" H (216 mm x 318 mm x 88 mm)
Weight:	14lbs. (6.5 kg)

DAC 3.5VB MK II Features

- 126dB dynamic range
- 24/192 digital inputs: AES, ST Glass-Fiber, BNC, Coaxial RCA and TOSLINK
- Low-noise full galvanic isolation on all digital inputs
- Analog input
- Two-Stage Master Reference UltraClock™ anti-jitter circuit
- Fully-balanced XLR and single-ended RCA outputs
- Virtual Battery technology
- 8-character alpha-numeric display for Volume, Sample Rate and Input control
- Green, eco-friendly, low-heat, low noise, low power consumption
- RS232 port and remote