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Subject: Benchmark DAC or clock

Posted by [Wayne Carson](#) on Sun, 24 Jun 2007 22:31:51 GMT

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Hello all,

Which would give me the biggest bang for the buck? and a mackie question.

I'm pretty content with using my Mackie 1604vlz preamps as instrument inputs (using channel inserts as outputs to my 8-in card) and a PreSonus Eureka for vocal inputs direct to the 8-in card. I don't record but a few tracks at a time and only one vox at a time. Mostly overdubbing individual parts and harmonies.

1. Mackie - I was told to use the channel inserts for the outputs instead of the direct outs (channel 1-8) because of less noise. I leave the 1/4" TS line half way in all the time so that I can still solo the mackie channel for trim adjustment only. Do you think I'm getting the best signal, ie, least amount of circuit noise and full signal at the first detent? It sounds OK to me. btw - I use Paris's warmth, fullness, depth, space and efx's to achieve most everything since I don't have any external processors.

2. DAC or Clock - I've got a simple system. One MEC with two 8-in cards and a two card EDS with one C16. All black face, classic. I've had this system since 1997-8 running 3.0 on XP. Chuck has said that the Paris clock is decent but I'm reading many of you hear a clarity when using an external clock and or a DAC. I'm a bit concerned when using a clock that the MEC sample rate goes to 48k, but I guess I could live with it. Would an external clock make a significant difference on a 1-MEC system or would a DAC converter help clear up any muddyness or harshness more?

Thanks guys and gals for your expert opinions and real world analysis on this.

Wayne Carson

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 00:19:40 GMT

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The DAC-1 will give you clearer picture of your mix. It is far superior to

the Paris DAC, even if Paris is clocked to an external source. The external clock will improve the A/D and D/A resolution of your entire system, including the D/A that you use to monitor your mix. This D/A converter still will not achieve the level of resolution of a Benchmark DAC-1, Mytek Stereo D/A, Lavry, etc, but it will definitely help. What I would look for is something like an old Apogee PSX 100

<http://news.harmony-central.com/Newp/WNAMM99/Apogee/PSX-100.html>

.....or an older Mytek Stereo AD/DA unit (I forget that they are named, but Dimitrios would know he has one) and David Seymour at Mytek might be able to help you find one..

These units have a clock that you can use to clock Paris externally and you will get a superior A/D converter for critical tracking and a superior D/A converter for monitoring, all in the same box.

You don't need anything capable of over 48KHz sample rate with Paris.

Deej

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Kim](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 01:03:12 GMT  
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I take it this would work?

[http://cgi.ebay.com.au/Mytek-StudioClock-192-CX-Clock-Generator\\_W0QQitemZ320130097707QQihZ011QQcategoryZ41784QQrdZ1QQssPageNameZWD2VQQcmdZViewItem](http://cgi.ebay.com.au/Mytek-StudioClock-192-CX-Clock-Generator_W0QQitemZ320130097707QQihZ011QQcategoryZ41784QQrdZ1QQssPageNameZWD2VQQcmdZViewItem)

Seems like a good deal, even though it's 192...

Cheers,  
Kim.

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Wayne Carson](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 01:16:54 GMT  
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Thanks DJ,

I'll look into your ideas.

My understanding is that even though the Paris MEC light shows 48K as a sample rate with an external clock, it is really still just 44.1K. I just want a simple 44.1K sample rate so that I can export a stereo wave file out of Paris and go directly to CD. I'm not trying to overclock or get an absurd sample rate.

Thanks again,  
Wayne

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message news:467f0ba5@linux...  
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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Wayne Carson](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 01:39:38 GMT  
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OK, I'm looking into clocks using the SweetWater catalog.  
Apogee Big Ben \$1345  
Lucid Genx192 \$700

Kim sent from eBay  
Mytek StudioClock 192-CX \$690 states it's more robust and a better square  
wave than Big Ben.

DJ sent  
Apogee PSX-100 \$3000

I'm gonna read up on all. Anyone have fav's.

Thanks all.

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 02:03:32 GMT  
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It would work nicely as a clock. You could spend just a little more and get a Mytek Stereo96 A/D and get a a similar clock and great A/D converter. Neither of these will help in the D/A department though, other than the Mytek clock will reclock the Paris D/A converters.

Deej

"Kim" <[hidensounds@hotmail.com](mailto:hidensounds@hotmail.com)> wrote in message [news:467f1450\\$1@linux...](news:467f1450$1@linux...)

>

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 02:06:25 GMT  
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The PSX 100 is 3K? If I was gonna spend 3k it would be on a Mytek 8 channel ADDA. I had no idea the PSX was even being made now, muchless going for \$3k.

If all you're looking for is a clock, buy a Lucid GenX-6 (not the 96k version.. You don't need 96k.

Deej

"Wayne Carson" <[carson\\_wayne@msn.com](mailto:carson_wayne@msn.com)> wrote in message [news:467f1e66@linux...](mailto:news:467f1e66@linux...)  
> OK, I'm looking into clocks using the SweetWater catalog.

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Wayne Carson](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 02:43:12 GMT  
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DJ,

Yup. It was on the harmony-central link. Apogee Press Release dtd Jan 28,1999. List price \$2995. Of course that was years ago and I'm sure the price has fallen quite a bit on this item if it's even made anymore.

I think what I'd like for an end product is a simple but quality and accurate clock with at least 2 outputs. One to the MEC and one to a DAC which I also need to purchase. I can understand this arrangement. The PSX-100 seems a bit complicated but something like this might be available with less bells and whistles. A good clock with AD/DA routing also. Sounds too good to be true. At least until I see the price tag.

But in a simple system I understand that I would send the output of the clock to the MEC clock in. And then figure out how to clock Paris correctly using an external source in the project window. I think I can figure this out and create a default. I've got the 8 page MEC booklet.

Then I could either use the MEC clock output or the external clock's other outputs to send to the DAC (probably the preferred method). That's it. That's what I want.

Have a nice evening.

Wayne

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote in message [news:467f24aa@linux...](mailto:news:467f24aa@linux...)

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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock  
Posted by [Wayne Carson](#) on Mon, 25 Jun 2007 16:32:19 GMT  
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Thanks Kim.

"Kim" <hiddenounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:467f1450\$1@linux...  
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Subject: Re: Benchmark DAC or clock

Posted by [Miguel Vigil \[1\]](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2007 13:19:30 GMT

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[http://cgi.ebay.com/AardSync-II-Aardvark-Master-Sync-Generat  
or\\_W0QQitemZ290132974166QQihZ019QQcategoryZ41784QQssPageName  
ZWDVWQQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem](http://cgi.ebay.com/AardSync-II-Aardvark-Master-Sync-Generat<br/>or_W0QQitemZ290132974166QQihZ019QQcategoryZ41784QQssPageName<br/>ZWDVWQQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem)

AardSync II Aardvark Master Sync Generator

If your staying at 48-44.1k range the above is a steller word clock with 4  
outs.

Regards,

El Miguel

"Wayne Carson" <carson\_wayne@msn.com> wrote in message  
news:467f1e66@linux...

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## File Attachments

1) [ltCurve.gif](#), downloaded 85 times

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