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Subject: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Dan B](#) on Wed, 06 Jun 2007 17:00:08 GMT

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Hi,

I'm considering moving to another system. Probably Cubase on PC and laptop. Although I might be tempted to stay if I can pick up a Magma unit for a decent price to let me use Paris on a laptop.

I was considering the Focusrite Saffire Pro 26, and wondered if anyone had any experience of this unit.

I'm also keen to hear how the Paris converters stack up against more recent ones, e.g. those in the Saffire. I know that the Paris A/D D/A was pretty sweet back when I bought it in 1998, but I'm guessing that even fairly cheap converters these days would match or exceed the 24bit 8 in / out cards on Paris.

Any thoughts?

Many thanks,  
Dan

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Wed, 06 Jun 2007 17:15:57 GMT

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I have 3 digimax fs and would never go back. Love em

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Wed, 06 Jun 2007 20:52:18 GMT

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Hi Dan,

The Focusrite does not sound nowhere near as good as Paris.

If you need to use firewire on your new system then save up more money for either a RME Fireface 400 or 800 or for a Motu 828 or 896.

Both have far nicer analog I/O and better digital clocks. If you need more AD/DA and or Mic-pres then the Presonus Digimax FS converters that John recommends are the best sounding stand alone converters I've heard under \$1000.

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Dan wrote:

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Chris Ludwig

ADK Pro Audio  
(859) 635-5762  
www.adkproaudio.com  
chrisl@adkproaudio.com

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [LaMont](#) on Wed, 06 Jun 2007 22:07:18 GMT

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<http://www.mackie.com/products/400F/index.html>

And if you need 8 mic pres and stand alone convertor, the Mackie 800  
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Another unit that often gets over looked but sounds amazingly great are the Tascams units.

The FW1804, 1814, 1082, 1884 units converters are very very nice. The pres are good as well with good driver support.

Another great option that get's over look are the M-Audio pre/converters. Like the Octane. These babies sounds great and I'll put them up against many BIG \$\$ units..

[http://www.m-audio.com/products/en\\_us/Octane-main.html](http://www.m-audio.com/products/en_us/Octane-main.html)

I really don't we (me included) are stuck on RME. While I have 2 cards and love them for their good overall sound and driver support, there are others that are just as good and better.

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 01:03:44 GMT

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Still the best overall performance and driver support and at this point I've installed and tested way too many sound cards and in the end the ones that have had the least troubles and the most responsive support have been RME. BTW that new Micstasy Pre-amp they have sound fricking amazing as well as the new AD/DA they the the ADI8-QS and being able to daisy chain them via MAD1 has made for killer live setups.

We're gonna be first of the PCI-e version of the HDSP cards in about 2 weeks which will be nice for Apple users.

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> Chris Ludwig <[chrisl@adkproaudio.com](mailto:chrisl@adkproaudio.com)> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?  
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 01:25:54 GMT  
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---

Hey Chris.. Thanks for your input. I'll have to check out the Micstasy Pre-amp.

I have to put M-Audio driver support right up there with RME. I have the 410FW unit and the newer 192 PCI card in a system, and they are fast and reliable as heck. Never a problem. AND,(smile) that old 2496 card drivers (with the Emagic easi) driver support still holds it's own..Expecialy for a Giga PC/MAC...

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Graham Duncan](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 06:19:52 GMT

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Chris,

How do you rate the TC Konnekt in there?

Another option in the MADI AD/DA game is the SSL Alpha-link. Perhaps more people will do MADI since it's so much easier to hook up!

Graham

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Dan B](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 11:20:06 GMT

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---

Thanks all for the input. Very interesting and more comprehensive than I'd expected!

Any thoughts on how the Digi 002 / 003 fit into the picture. I'm particularly concerned about A/D D/A (although good pre's are handy too), because I've got a few fairly ok external pre's (SPL Gold Mic v1 and soon to get a DAV BG-1). I also need a bunch of I/Os that aren't just pre's (which is why the Focusrite was appealing, with line I/O, adat I/O, midi I/O etc).

Out of curiosity, in terms of pure A/D D/A, how do any of these units stack up against Paris? I'm not keen to take (too much of) a step backwards if I do move, but portability - not to mention some of the features of Cubase (automatic plug in latency compensation, effects on subgroups, better automation, integration with midi/vsti's) have got me thinking about moving. Though not currently being a cubase user, that involves a whole steep learning curve!

Cheers,  
D

"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 13:56:28 GMT

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Hi Graham,

The TC is an excellent sounding device. Bt has suffered from allot of driver and compatibility issues. They do seem to be improving them. For under \$500 they one of the best units sonically.

The SSL Alpha link is nice especially if you need a mixture of stuff.

The main problem with the current versions are that even though they are supposedly 64 channels they only 48 channels of I/O . NJot sure why they need to waste some many channels.

MADI has been our most commonly used PCI card for a about 2 years now.

We do allot of live recording setups that use large format consoles which almost all use MADI.

Graham Duncan wrote:

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 13:57:02 GMT

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Over no the "for sale" section of the NG, Paul Artola is selling an RME Multiface for \$295... if he still has it, buy that & be done with it... you'll get pristine convertors, good support if you have any questions, a newly-updated driver that can be downloaded immediately, zero-latency monitoring, regardless of how many buffers you use oh, and did I say it sounds great? Just buy a new PCI card so you're sure to get v1.7 or later - there was a power-source issue on the older cards (it can be fixed for about \$40, but why buy a used card for \$xxx, then have to send it off to be fixed when about \$260 gets you a new one).

Neil

"Dan B" <daniel\_burneNOSPAM@yahoo.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?  
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 14:09:27 GMT  
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---

Hi Lamont,

As long as there are now compatibility issues then yes the M-Audio units you mentioned are excellent. The Delta series have been reliable for years but are getting pretty long in the tooth.

The only big issues with the firewire stuff has been reliability. We've had alot of them die but mostly from customers unplugging em at the wrong time.

Sense we are building 30 computer systems a month at this [point I unfortunately get to see alot more of the crap..:(

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Posted by [LaMont](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 15:15:09 GMT  
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Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 15:17:00 GMT  
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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?  
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Thu, 07 Jun 2007 19:44:05 GMT  
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That's was my point.. :) : ) Great product..

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>And you can use the M=Powered pro Tools and use Cubase or whatever else.  
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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?  
Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Fri, 08 Jun 2007 01:20:26 GMT  
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---

Yep, still available. This is just the multiface, not the PCI or PCMCIA card. Those are about \$250 extra.

- Paul Artola

Ellicott City, Maryland

On 7 Jun 2007 23:57:02 +1000, "Neil" <IUOIU@OI.com> wrote:

>  
>Over no the "for sale" section of the NG, Paul Artola is selling  
>an RME Multiface for \$295... if he still has it, buy that & be  
>done with it... you'll get pristine convertors, good support if  
>you have any questions, a newly-updated driver that can be  
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>how many buffers you use oh, and did I say it sounds great?  
>Just buy a new PCI card so you're sure to get v1.7 or later -  
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>fixed for about \$40, but why buy a used card for \$xxx, then  
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---

Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [TCB](#) on Fri, 08 Jun 2007 14:10:44 GMT

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---

If this isn't gone Paul, I'll take it in a second. Email me at my initials at thadbrown.com if it is.

TCB

Paul Artola <artola@comcast.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Paris A/D converter quality? Moving to another system?

Posted by [Dan B](#) on Wed, 20 Jun 2007 18:09:26 GMT

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---

Any thoughts on how the Paris A/D (24 bit, and I guess also the build in 20 bit A/D) stack up against the sorts on DACs you find in more recent, cheap products - e.g. the Focusrite Saffire (which I'm probably most interested in), and other units like RME / Presonus / etc.

Also, does anyone know what the Paris DACs actually are? I seem to remember a reference to Crystal a loong time ago.

Cheers,  
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Chris Ludwig <[chrisl@adkproaudio.com](mailto:chrisl@adkproaudio.com)> wrote:

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