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Subject: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400, Saffire, MH 2882, etc

Posted by [Dan B](#) on Wed, 01 Aug 2007 10:41:35 GMT

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Hi,

I'm pretty much decided that I'm after an RME Fireface 400 (with Cubase 4 or SX 3). This will be a supplement to my Paris rig, and I suspect I'll gradually phase out Paris (sob). Lack of non-native inserts on subgroups and master bus, lack of latency compensation, no support for 96 k, etc, is getting a bit frustrating.

Anyone have any experience with the FF400? How does audio quality stand up to Paris? I'm not too concerned about the pres as I've got a DAV BG2 and an SPL Gold Mike (Mk 1). Most critical is A/D and D/A quality; also stability (I'll be using it with a Dell XPS 2.0 ghz 2 gig ram laptop).

Any thoughts / experience on how the converters of the FF stack up against Paris, Metric Halo 2882, or any of the Firewire interface competition - e.g. Focusrite Saffire 26 (which seems to have a killer featureset, I'm just worried about compromise on quality), Makie 400F, etc.

Many thanks,  
Dan

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Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400, Saffire, MH 2882, etc

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Wed, 01 Aug 2007 16:26:09 GMT

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Hi Dan,

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As for overall sound quality on the lower end ones.

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Chris

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Chris Ludwig

ADK Pro Audio

(859) 635-5762

[www.adkproaudio.com](http://www.adkproaudio.com)

[chrisl@adkproaudio.com](mailto:chrisl@adkproaudio.com)

Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400,  
Posted by [Dan B](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2007 09:25:18 GMT

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Thanks Chris. Most helpful. I think it's going to be the FF400 then. I'll be interested to see how the A/D D/A stacks up against the 24bit Paris 8 I/O cards. I guess I'm also going to spend some time scratching my head over how best to combine, integrate and sync the two systems (adat sync, clocked from the RME? lightpipe and spdif audio transfers, i guess)

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

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Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400,  
Saffire, MH 2882, etc  
Posted by [DJ](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2007 15:35:47 GMT  
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Chris,

Have you had a chance to try the new PrismSound FW interface? Surely you got  
a couple of those just laying around gathering dust, right?

;o)

"Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote in message  
news:46b0b621\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME  
FF400,Saffire, MH 2882, etc  
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2007 16:45:55 GMT  
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HI DJ,

Nope not yet.

Looks like its got some nice converters and such and the DSD function  
look interesting.

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thing seems cool. I'd rather it had a AD/DA to use with other hardware  
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Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400, Saffire, MH 2882, etc  
Posted by [DJ](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2007 20:29:23 GMT  
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"Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote in message  
news:46b20c41\$1@linux...

> HI DJ,  
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Well..the A/D/A unit only costs around \$11k.

;o)

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Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400,Saffire, MH 2882, etc  
Posted by [Graham Duncan](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 05:02:59 GMT  
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That's what the Mytek unit is for... ;)

Graham

Chris Ludwig wrote:

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---

Subject: Re: Moving to firewire interface: A/D D/A quality vs Paris; RME FF400,  
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 05:08:43 GMT  
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I agree with you about generic firewire chipsets.

Most of your boutique hardware companies are not equipped to program great firewire drivers. that's why companies like apogee prism lynx all struggle with adding firewire.. I'm told that writing good firewire drivers is very complicated.

having said all of that, I'm not impressed with the sound quality of RME audio devices..they sound too stale and bland..the converters have no balls .. But if you like converters with no color, than it cool..

MOtU: strange..But, we have found that motu interfaces really shine when using their daw DP..that same motu unit , in our case the 896HD sounds generic and bland when used with other daws(logic,cubase)..Just like paris's I/O sounded plain jane when used in other audio apps.. but I would say that motu audio hardware when married to their daw (digital) performer sounds as good as anything on the market..I own DP(4) and would use it but I that daw is too midi first for me.. but a very deep app for sure..

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