EISA AWARD Best Product 2017-2018
DAC/HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER
Pro-Ject Pre Box S2 Digital

Hi-Res AUDIO

32 bit 768 kHz

DSD Direct Stream Digital

MQA

roon tested


EDITION 23

# Pre Box S2 Digital

## Improved 2023 edition of a Modern Pro-Ject Classic

MSRP 449 € (incl. VAT)

**Color options:**

- **NEW** powerful output stage for headphones
- **NEW** analogue output stage - higher Class A current
- **NEW** redesigned discrete audio master clock
- **NEW** internal power supply design
- **NEW** less energy consumption - more power, higher efficiency - saves battery life for mobile devices
- Dual mono high end ESS Sabre ESS9038 dual DAC
- Organic polymer capacitors
- Thin film mini MELF resistors
- MQA hardware decoding for USB input
- DSD64 / 128 / 256 / 512
- Up to 24bit/192kHz for optical & coax inputs
- 7 selectable digital filter characteristics
- 1 proprietary optimum transient digital filter
- Synchronization of all internal oscillators
- Jitter even lower than 100 Femtoseconds!
- Gold plated four layer PCB
- Full aluminium enclosure in silver or black
- Made in Europe

**3 digital inputs:** 1x coax (S/PDIF), 1x optical (TOSlink®), USB B

**D/A-converter:** 2x ESS9038Q2M 32-bit PCM 768kHz / DSD512

**Headphone amplifier chip:** ESS9603Q

**Sampling rates:** 32/44,1/48/88,2/96/176,2/192/352,8/384/768 kHz

**DSD support (USB input only):** up to DSD256 (DoP) and 512 (native)

**MQA support (USB input only):** full MQA unfolding by hardware

**Filter settings:** 8 different selectable on front

**Frequency response:** 20Hz - 20kHz

**Analogue out:** 6.3mm Headphone Out (front), 1x Variable Out (RCA)

**Output voltage:** 2,05 Veff

**Headphone output power:** 100mW (32Ohms)

**THD:** 0,0003%

**Dynamic Range:** 124dBA

**Power consumption:** 5V, micro USB

**Dimensions:** 103 x 37 x 122 mm (including knob and connectors)

**Weight:** 366g without power supply

## Pre Box S2 Digital - Edition 23

The Pre Box S2 Digital - since its release back in 2017 - has quickly ascended to an **exceptional status in the DAC market** and gained a **reputation among digital and PC-audio enthusiasts** for its remarkable ability to **compete way above its price point**.

### An audiophile bargain

Working with one of the **best digital designers** in the industry, **John Westlake,** the original Pre Box S2 Digital has become an **audiophile bargain,** able to compete with products way above its price. The reason is John Westlake's **outstanding PCB** and **proprietary clock circuitry** design. Digital audio is the art of time, with our new proprietary clock design we have managed **jitter rates of unrivalled 100 Femtoseconds**, this easily outperforms many renowned and respected audiophile clock generators!

### Digital design at its best

The Pre Box S2 Digital might not have had the greatest options of inputs, outputs or other convenience features, but it **excelled in one crucial aspect - its audio performance** - which stood on par with DACs of price tags **several thousand euros higher**. This achievement can be attributed to a combination of factors, including a **custom and proprietary clock design**, **meticulous PCB layout** featuring **separate power supplies**, **dual differential ESS DACs**, and an **exclusive proprietary digital filter** designed to deliver pristine and transparent transient response. The Pre Box S2 Digital may seem small, but it is really the ultimate design.

### It only gets better - new Edition 23 improvements

The chip crisis of 20/21 has hit the Pre Box S2 Digital particularly hard, given its enduring demand. But during the downtime, we and **John Westlake** seized the opportunity to **implement key improvements** and **refine the design**, thus rejuvenating the product almost exactly 5 years after its original introduction.

### Redesigned master audio clocks

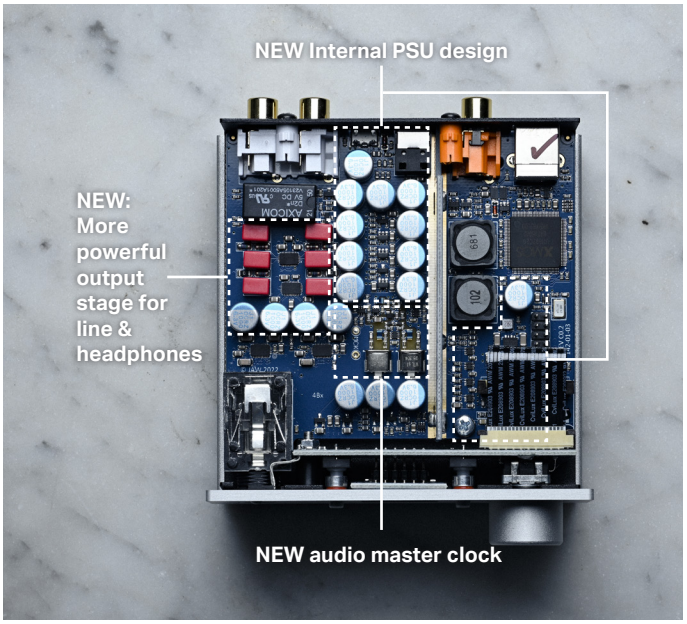
We have redesigned and **improved the discrete audio master clocks** – this **lowers the phase noise** and further enhances the already **cutting-edge jitter** performance.

### New internal power supply design

The **power supply units** (PSUs) of clock, DACs, and analog output stages have undergone enhancements to offer **increased isolation from PC USB power noise** and achieve a **wider/flatter output impedance** across the entire audio bandwidth.

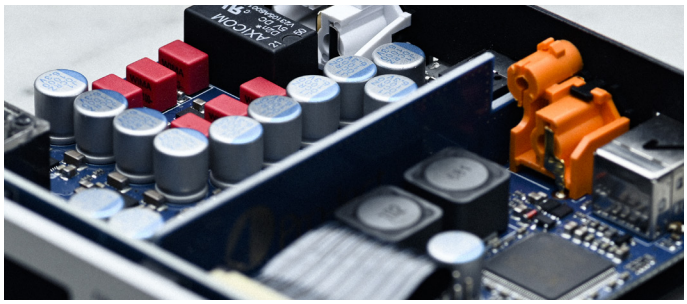
### New output stage with higher Class-A current

The **new analogue output stage,** based around the **SABRE9603Q**, has **higher Class A operating current,** for **improved performance** with **low impedance headphones** and **long cable runs**.




### New headphone amplifier

The entire design is now **more energy efficient** – a **12% reduction in PSU current**, while also offering **higher Class A analogue stage operating current** resulting in **lower distortion** when used with low impedance headphones. Users with mobile devices or laptops on-the-go will also appreciate the **lower power draw**, and **simultaneously enjoy more power** for the energy that is being drawn. And for anyone finding themselves using **low-impedance headphones or in-ears** – whether in a mobile, home, or work environment: they will experience a **noteable boost in sound quality** too.





### Unbeatable value - handmade in Europe

Normally **up to 70%** of Hi-Fi production cost **goes into the cabinet**. By **reducing the cabinet size** and **using the same casework** for entire product-lines Pro-Ject can shift the cost-relation to the **benefit of technology involved**. This allows us to invest in a **higher quality PCB design**. The Pre Box S2 Digital Edition 2023 is carefully **designed and handmade in Europe**. We aim to develop a **technically flawless device** in a housing that is only **as big as necessary** to save raw materials. Due to the **timeless design & rigid aluminium casework**, the Pre Box S2 Digital Edition 2023 is built for eternity.

**Off the grid**

It is a known fact that one of the best ways to eliminate noise in a Hi-Fi system is to supply the electricity with batteries. The **Accu Box S2** can supply clean power for the **Pre Box S2 Digital and the Stream Box S2 Ultra simultaneously** and shares the same quaint footprint and case as its brethren.


**Partner in crime**

The **ideal streaming partner** is the **Stream Box S2 Ultra** for seamless compatibility. The Stream Box S2 Ultra is also a brainchild of **John Westlake**. This duo has impressed many reviewers over the years and both are destined to become **Pro-Ject classics**. You can use supplied remote control of the Pre Box S2 Digital to control the Stream Box functions as well.