



McIntosh DS200

HIGHLY COMMENDED NETWORK STREAMER

M McIntosh products have a distinct set of design criteria that sets them apart from the audio zeitgeist, and the DS200 meets those criteria perfectly. Its specification is expectedly thorough, with its quad-balanced, eight-channel DAC suitable for resolutions up to 32bit/384kHz, DSD512 and DXD384kHz, and feeding coaxial, optical, AES/EBU, USB Type-B and even HDMI ARC sockets. On the streaming side is everything from aptX HD Bluetooth to Apple AirPlay, Google Cast, and Spotify, Tidal and Qobuz Connect functionality. Put simply, it has the lot... save for analogue inputs. Naturally, RCA and XLR analogue outputs are onboard, configurable for fixed or variable.

McIntosh through and through

Its glowing green Gothic script, bright blue dot-matrix display, black glass fascia and equally well-made smattering of control buttons are very

much 'business as usual' for McIntosh fare, too. And it's just as easy to attribute the DS200's quality and character of sound to the brand. "In every circumstance, the DS200 is deftly naturalistic and maintains an utterly convincing tonal balance," describes Simon Lucas in his review. "Its frequency response is similarly judicious, from the profoundly deep bass to the bright and substantial treble."

It keeps a vigilant eye on the most transient, tangential details in a recording, and, while the DS200 can ably deliver an implacable force or an abundance of low-frequency depth when required, there's also a nimbleness and lightness of touch in contrast to the machine's brooding physical presence. All up, the McIntosh provides "one of the most complete and thoroughly satisfying ways to access digital audio content that this kind of investment can procure".

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