

MELCO LAUNCHES NEW TWO-BOX N10 MUSIC LIBRARY

Melco introduces a new model, the N10. It's intention is to introduce the concept of extreme performance Hi-Res Digital Music in a new form factor, quite unlike conventional Hi-Fi components.



N10

KEY POINTS →

- Extreme performance Audio NAS, and local USB-DAC player
 - Two-box design separating signal processing electronics and power supplies.
 - New Melco Control App available at launch
 - Capacity 3TB
 - This is an additional model – not a replacement for any current models
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D100



E100

14th September - Guangzhou – Mr Araki – CEO of Melco Syncretis, the HiFi division of the Japanese IT giant Buffalo Technology announces the launch of the Melco N10 extreme performance Hi-Res digital Music Library.

Building on the undisputed position held by the existing N1Z series as simply the best Digital Music Source currently available, the N10 continues to improve audio performance while offering a new highly convenient form factor.

Melco N10 is housed two units, each chassis 215mm wide – half the width of conventional Hi-Fi components. The Head Unit contains all the processing electronics and the data connectivity. The Power Unit contains a low noise linear power supply and power management. Side by side the two units are the same size as conventional HiFi. The casing is the same size as the Melco D100 CD loader and the E100 Expansion drive.

Separating the units allows total isolation of noise pollution, as well as isolating any vibration from the power transformer.

The power supply uses advanced techniques to minimise both internal noise and also external noise which would affect the main Hi-Fi system. The power supply has an IEC 3 wire mains supply with a properly defined ground reference point. Connectivity between the Power unit and the Head Unit is by flexible cord with Neutrik multi-pin connectors.

The metalwork of both units comprising the N10 is designed around a high quality solid aluminium case, including solid aluminium end cheeks. Multiple elements ensure total rigidity and isolation of all components to ensure maximum sound quality. Additionally the N10 offers a new convenient form factor, based on a chassis of 215mm width – half size compared to conventional full size HI-FI. N100 is the same size as the newly introduced D100 CD Loader and E100 Expansion Drive – this means that components can be conveniently placed side by side to match other Hi-Fi components.

Available from in November in UK and Europe.

€7500 / £6750

N10 Features and Benefits

N10 uses the same extreme low-noise high precision digital music dataflow of the existing Melco series.

N10 is designed from the start as an audio specific device – it uses no standard IT components or PC parts.

A new low profile mainboard uses the exact same RISC processor and architecture as the N1Z series ensuring very low noise with precise data management. N10 mainboard is optimised for extreme sound quality.

Twin Ethernet ports are retained with the dedicated Ethernet Player port connecting directly to the network player without an intervening dataswitch, ensuring that packet order and timing is maintained.

Internal storage is 3TB HDD. Easily expandable by either IT USB HDD or the Melco E100 to maintain sound quality. Additional E300 increases capacity in steps of 3TB. USB connected DAC allows the N10 to perform as a self-contained local HiRes Digital Music player. Data rates up to 32bit 384kHz and Octo DSD are supported. All Gapless and with Melco Markerless DSD fully supported.

Control of the USB-DAC player is from the new Melco App, from the front panel, or from approved third-party RF Remote handset, N10 will operate with both USB DAC and also Ethernet connected player even without connection to a data network – standalone Isolated Mode.

CD import is easy with either Melco D100 external CD loader or IT grade Optical drive for less demanding use. Melco does not put IT grade loader inside N10 as it both compromises sound quality and also reduces reliability due to disposable nature of IT drives.

Music backup is as easy and plugging in a USB HDD and pressing one button.

Direct Download of Hi-Res downloads from HighresAudio.com and other vendors is supported for error-free downloading Front panel USB for convenient import from USB, direct play from USB without importing, and for connection of a USB DAC.

Alan Ainslie, General manager at Melco, said:

“Melco to date has achieved a great reputation for sound quality with machines using internal switch-mode supplies. So high quality supplies, used properly, clearly give excellent results unmatched by other solutions, especially when everything is in one chassis.

Making a small form factor chassis as in the N10 means that the power supply has to be enclosed in a separate chassis connected to the main unit by umbilical cord. In this situation extensive research led to the conclusion that in such two-box architecture a linear power supply was the ideal solution. And design detail ensures that this solution matches the performance for which Melco is justly famous.

Both the main unit and power supply have many details to ensure outstanding performance and the two box solution helps here as it allows for increased vibration isolation.

N10 does not replace any existing Melco model, but introduces an exciting alternative to the established models – no functionality is sacrificed and the new styling and compatibility with D100 and E100 allows for creation of a really high performance modular Hi-Res digital music source.”

