



“If you want the impression of real live musicians plonked in the room in front of you, the D2 delivers.”

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Where the Green Grass

Eric Bibb

DSD 5.644 MHz 1 Bit

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LUMIN

AUDIO FILE

Network-attached player/DAC
 Made by: Pixel Magic Systems Ltd, Hong Kong
 Supplied by: Sound Design Distribution Ltd, Cardiff, UK
 Telephone: (0)800 009 6213
 Web: www.luminmusic.com; www.sounddesigndistribution.co.uk
 Price: £1845



Lumin D2

This latest version of the company's affordable network audio player, the £1845 D2, is so light at 2.5kg that our stiffish Chord Company interconnects almost lifted it off its feet! Unlike its predecessor, the D1, which used a computer-style offboard power supply, the D2 now has a shielded switchmode PSU onboard, and a conventional rear IEC mains socket.

With one Wolfson WM8741 DAC chip for each channel used to feed the balanced circuitry, the D2 is able to handle files at up to 384kHz/32-bit and DSD128, whether from network sources or USB storage. It also allows the upscaling of lower-res files, with those up to 96kHz resampled to 192kHz or DSD.

As well as UPnP streaming over the network, it supports online services including Qobuz, Spotify,

'Boy, does Alison Krauss do emotion – her vocals here are jaw-dropping'

and Tidal (with MQA), and Apple AirPlay too. It also delivers Internet radio via TuneIn and is Roon-ready.

Apart from the D2's network connection, which is wired Ethernet only – there's no Wi-Fi or Bluetooth functionality here – and a brace of USB-A ports, things are kept pretty simple. You have a choice of either balanced or unbalanced analogue outputs, the former being preferable given the all-balanced internal layout, offering a choice of 'Normal' or 'Low' level, and there's

a volume control governed via the Lumin app. In addition there's a single BNC digital output, limited to 192kHz/24-bit and DSD64 via DoP.

After the player initialises, the display comes to life, showing a simple two-line indication of the content selected. Beyond that, you're in the hands of the app, which fortunately is excellent and also allows a wide range of set-up options. Beyond a quick start guide, to probe deeper into its facilities and capabilities, reference is needed to Lumin's website, which has information in the form of a series of FAQ topics.

REAL PUNCH

The D2 rapidly reveals itself to be very capable, whether with upscaled CDs, hi-res PCM files or those full-fat double-DSD releases. It combines warmth and generosity with treble sweetness and a natural-sounding midband, all easy to enjoy.

There's nothing over-lush or soft about this player, as is clear with rhythm-driven music such

as the *Victor Wainright And The Train* set [Ruf Records]. The D2 powers bass and drums along with real punch, while also rendering the instrumental and vocal lines with a wide-open sense of timbre and texture. It's a real riot of a listen, too, one that finds the volume control inching up inexorably.

That the D2 gets the listener into the heart of the music is readily apparent with the intimacy of David Elias's *Crossing* album [David Elias Music; DSD64], which is a typically

ABOVE: In black or brushed aluminium finishes, the D2's casework neatly oversails to conceal rear connections. Control is via the Lumin app

simply-miked, 'straight to recorder' set, here presented with all its vitality and spontaneity intact. If you want the impression of real live musicians plonked in the room in front of you, the D2 delivers.

And the same applies to The L.A. Network's *Ella On Our Mind* album [2xHD; DSD128], recorded directly to Nagra hardware with no EQ or compression. Here the Lumin D2 brings out all the atmosphere and ambience of the studio, and really shines with the voices, especially the luminous tone of Aubrey Logan.

So too, Alison Krauss and Union Station's *Live* album [Rouder; DSD64] has that real 'in the audience' sense via the Lumin D2, with both the singer's gorgeous voice and her accompanying musicians rendered with bags of emotion and expression. And boy, does Krauss do emotion, with her vocals here frequently jaw-dropping, helped – as if they needed it – by the D2's unforced presentation.

But in case you were thinking this player was all about delicate voices and minimal recordings, play the '1941 March' from the Jerry Junkin/Dallas Wind Symphony on *John Williams At The Movies* [Reference Recordings; DSD64], and you'll hear just how well the Lumin D2 lets the track build from almost inaudible woodwind all the way through to full band and drums bombasts, while at the same time keeping the rhythms tight and crisp.

VERDICT

While the D2 may be compact, lightweight and unassuming (albeit in a very classy manner), the sound it delivers is big, rich and dramatic as required, then at the next turn refined and intimate. ☺

HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum output level / Impedance	4.08Vrms / 10ohm
A-wtd S/N ratio	114.9dB
Distortion (1kHz, 0dBFS/-30dBFS)	0.00032% / 0.0011%
Distortion & Noise (20kHz, 0dBFS/-30dBFS)	0.00065% / 0.0019%
Freq. resp. (20Hz-20kHz/40kHz/75kHz)	-0.0 to +0.1dB/-1.1dB/-8.0dB
Digital jitter (48kHz/96kHz/192kHz)	15psec / 50psec / 55psec
Resolution (re. -100dBFS / -110dBFS)	±0.3dB / ±0.9dB
Power consumption	20W (1W standby)
Dimensions (WHD) / Weight	300x60x244mm / 2.5kg