

## Press release

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# audiolab

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*Above* Audiolab 9000N in silver finish – now featuring the joy of Plex

## Audiolab's 9000N streamer Plexes its muscles

**New software update adds support for music management platform Plex, as Audiolab's brilliant top-of-the-range network streamer continues to evolve**

*Cambridgeshire, England* – Since the 9000N launched last autumn, Audiolab's flagship network streamer has received several software updates to extend functionality and enhance the overall user experience. The latest of these updates adds support for highly regarded music management service Plex, providing another distinct advantage over competing network streamers.

Essentially, Plex is an alternative to Roon – a platform to access, manage and play locally stored and internet-streamed digital music. Both Plex and Roon are considered leaders in their field, each with its own specific advantages; Plex is lauded for its flexibility, lower cost and ability to handle lower-bandwidth network connections at home or away. Plex can also be used to manage video and image content, in addition to audio.

While many dedicated audio streamers include integrated Roon support, this has not been the path of travel for Plex. However, millions of music lovers, movie watchers and TV viewers around the world use Plex's software and streaming service to manage all manner of media across their devices. By offering 9000N owners access to both Plex *and* Roon, in addition to its own sophisticated music management app, Audiolab delivers the best of all digital worlds for discerning music lovers.

The inclusion of Plex is made possible by Audiolab's partnership with Lumin, a global leader in high-performance network music streaming. Lumin is the first high-end audio technology developer to integrate Plex connectivity, and owners of the 9000N benefit from this too.

The 9000N's Plex functionality was released on 10th April 2024 with an automatic OTA (Over-The-Air) update for existing owners. Integrated support is provided for the Plex Media Server and music-specific Plexamp software applications, both of which are free to download. Additional internet-enabled facilities, including innovative audio, music management and music discovery features, can be accessed via a paid 'Plex Pass' subscription.



**plex**

*Left The free Plexamp app is an attractive and versatile way to manage and stream music through the Audiolab 9000N*

## More 9000N updates

Other recent updates have added active features to the 9000N, as Audiolab's flagship network streamer continues to evolve. For example:

## roon

Although full Roon compatibility was technically in place at launch, this functionality was not initially 'active'. This was owing to Roon's test and certification process, which encountered delays during the takeover and restructuring operation related to Harman's acquisition of Roon.

Full 'Roon Ready' capability was activated by Roon for all 9000N units on 5th April 2024, following completion of the certification process.



Tidal has added hi-res FLAC files to its top HiFi Plus subscription tier, creating a new 'Max' audio quality designation to match. Network streamers require a software update to support Tidal Max; the 9000N received its free OTA update in February 2024.

In the Tidal app, 'Max' is used to signify the highest audio quality available for each album or track, whether that be hi-res FLAC (which has priority) or MQA. So, you simply see 'Max' when using the Tidal app via Tidal Connect, no matter which of these formats the file happens to be. However, if you use the 9000N's own app to access Tidal, these file types are identified separately as 'Max' (specifically for hi-res FLAC) and 'MQA'.

Further carefully chosen, expertly implemented streaming technologies and services are planned for future updates, maintaining the 9000N's position at the cutting edge of high-performance audio streaming for years to come.



*Left* The 9000N is part of Audiolab's flagship 9000 Series, along with the 9000A integrated amplifier and 9000CDT CD transport

## The Audiolab 9000N – in summary

The 9000N is an 'affordable high-end' network audio player made for discerning music lovers who refuse to compromise on performance. Whether streaming from local storage devices or internet-based music services, Audiolab's flagship streamer delivers an exemplary blend of high-performance features and class-leading sound.

The 9000N was developed in partnership with Lumin, a global leader in high-end audio streaming. It combines Lumin's cutting-edge hardware/software with Audiolab's established sonic know-how, utilising top-spec circuit components including an eight-channel ES9038PRO DAC chipset with a discrete regulated power feed. Audio formats are supported to the highest specification, including 32-bit/768kHz PCM and native DSD512.

The 9000N's dedicated control app is based on Lumin's sophisticated and feature-rich app, specially tailored for Audiolab. Other integrated solutions for music management and control include Roon and Plex, and alternative apps such as Audirvana, BubbleUPnP and mconnect Player can also be used.

Supported internet streaming services include Tidal, Qobuz and TuneIn – all built into the heart of the 9000N app – plus Tidal Connect and Spotify Connect. AirPlay 2 can be used to cast other services such as Apple Music and Amazon Music to the 9000N, and audio files can be streamed from Roon, Plex and UPnP/DLNA servers on a home network.

Network connectivity includes Wi-Fi (a first for a Lumin-based streamer) as well as Ethernet cable, while USB-A and USB-B inputs are available to connect USB drives, PCs, Macs and so on. A 4.3in colour screen (again, a first for a Lumin-based streamer) offers a range of display options, and as the capabilities of the Lumin platform evolves, so too will those of the 9000N thanks to free over-the-air updates.

Smooth and stable operation, state-of-the-art hi-res credentials, an intuitive and feature-rich control app, and a sound that simply soars – Audiolab's top-of-the-range 9000N is a streaming *tour de force*, available in black or silver at an RRP of £2,499.

## audiolab

Formed in the early 1980s by Philip Swift and Derek Scotland, Audiolab earned worldwide acclaim with the 8000A – an integrated stereo amplifier that became a classic 'step-up' from the budget models of the time. Now part of the IAG brand family, Audiolab's reputation has been further enhanced by its hugely respected DAC circuitry, earning the company a plethora of awards since the launch of the 8200CD and M-DAC in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Today, the company continues to make class-leading source and amp components across its highly acclaimed 6000, 7000, 9000 and M-DAC product lines, delivering crisp, clean ergonomics and superb sound with everything from vinyl to the latest digital formats.

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