

Press release



December 2025

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Above QUAD 3CDT CD transport – iconic design, state-of-the-art performance

QUAD 3CDT: dedicated to discs

New CD transport joins the QUAD 3 integrated amp in the company's retro-inspired, innovation-focused 3 Series, expertly engineered to make the most of those spinning silver discs

Cambridgeshire, England -- In the summer of 2025, QUAD – Britain's original high-end audio brand – launched a new integrated amp called the QUAD 3. Taking its stylistic cues from the company's iconic preamplifiers of the 1960s, the amp's industrial design echoes QUAD's illustrious past whilst updating every element inside and out to deliver state-of-the-art build quality, facilities and sonic performance.

The QUAD 3 amp includes a superb built-in DAC, so it's entirely logical for QUAD to develop a matching CD transport, the QUAD 3CDT. After all, with plenty of music lovers still cherishing large CD collections amassed over many years, and CDs continuing to outsell vinyl in the UK despite the latter's celebrated revival, the original mass-market digital audio format retains an important place among the various ways people choose to enjoy music at home.

Like the QUAD 3 amp, the 3CDT's design is steeped in 'QUAD DNA', both in the way it looks and the desire of its maker to deliver 'the closest approach to the original sound'. It shares the amp's compact 30cm-wide footprint and two-tone colourway, its matt silver front panel contrasting beautifully with its dark grey main enclosure. The amp's design is also duplicated in the CD transport's contoured fascia and orange backlit LCD display – a striking homage to iconic QUAD amps of decades past.

But while the 3CDT is an obvious match for the QUAD 3 amp aesthetically and sonically, its focus on the mechanics of exemplary data retrieval and signal integrity through elevated engineering makes it an excellent CD-spinning companion for any high-quality DAC or integrated amp with digital inputs.

Engineered for excellence

Compared to CD *players*, which incorporate DAC and analogue output circuitry in the same chassis as the disc transport mechanism, the 3CDT takes full advantage of separating the transport hardware from the DAC, eliminating potential sources of electrical noise and distortion.

Construction is first rate inside and out, its precision-engineered aluminium chassis, internal architecture and shielded transport mechanism designed to mitigate the sonically deleterious effects of vibrations and interference. From the disc tray to the optical and coaxial digital outputs, every element has been engineered for high durability, quiet operation and uncompromised fidelity.

At the heart of the 3CDT lies a high-precision CD mechanism and custom-designed CD servo control system, delivering excellent disc reading accuracy and stability. Every detail of the laser assembly and servo control system has been optimised to minimise read errors, jitter and other forms of distortion, delivering a pristine signal to the connected DAC for maximum sound quality.

The CD servo and control architecture is engineered with a robust dual-core processing framework, featuring a high-performance 32-bit RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) CPU and a dedicated MCU. This configuration ensures precise servo control and reliable error correction.



Left The QUAD 3CDT's internal architecture unlocks the full musical potential of every disc

Power does not corrupt

Incorporating a high-quality, ultra-low-noise toroidal transformer, QUAD has designed the internal power architecture to isolate critical pathways. The motor and laser servo circuits are separated from the decoder stage that processes the digital audio signal, ensuring the data stream is clean and stable before it is synchronised and formatted.

A temperature-controlled, ultra-precision crystal oscillator provides the master clock for the servo and decoder section. Powered by its own independent, ultra-low-noise linear regulator and grounding

scheme to eradicate power supply induced jitter, it acts as a rock-solid timing reference. This ensures that the extracted S/PDIF digital output is stable and free of timing errors, delivering audibly cleaner transients, tighter imaging and greater musical coherence.

Let's all go to the disc-o

In addition to the standard 'Red Book' 16-bit/44.1kHz pre-recorded CD format, the 3CDT also supports CD-R, CD-RW and data CDs, as well as discs containing FLAC, WAV, WMA, MP3 and APE encoded files. With this format flexibility, high-quality construction and ability to play moderately damaged or dirty CDs that are often rejected by other CD players and transports, the QUAD 3CDT is a CD spinner equipped to play cherished disc collections for many years to come.

With a style that evokes iconic QUAD designs of the past and internal architecture that maximises the sonic potential of every disc you play, the QUAD 3CDT CD transport is available from mid-December at an RRP of £599.



Left Aesthetically and sonically, the 3CDT is the perfect CD-spinning companion for the QUAD 3 integrated amp

QUAD

Of all the British high-end hi-fi brands, QUAD (an acronym for Quality Unit Amplifier Domestic) boasts the longest and most distinguished history. The company has been at the cutting edge of audio since 1936, pushing back the boundaries of performance with continuous innovation. In 1953, the QUAD II valve amplifier set new standards for audio amplification and three years later QUAD invented the first full-range electrostatic speaker – later known as the legendary ESL 57.

Throughout the ensuing years, QUAD products have continued to win worldwide acclaim, building a reputation for excellence that bears comparison with the most distinguished brands in any field. QUAD has been part of the International Audio Group (IAG) since 1998, following its acquisition from the Verity Group (alongside Wharfedale). The company's design and technical support teams and much-admired servicing department continue to be based in Cambridgeshire, England, supported by key personnel who have worked with QUAD for decades.

IAG's exceptional resources and unrivalled audio manufacturing facilities ensure that QUAD's current range boasts many award-winning products, including the latest generation of ESL electrostatic speakers, class-leading valve amplifiers, dynamic 'box' speakers, planar magnetic headphones and a range of solid-state audio electronics that fuse high-end performance with elegant, versatile design. Almost 90 years after its formation, QUAD continues to be driven by the philosophy of its founder, Peter Walker, to produce 'the closest approach to the original sound'.

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