

Press release

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Above QUAD Platina CDT with silver fascia

'Perfect sound forever'

QUAD's range-topping CD transport – the Platina CDT – promises to be the last disc-spinner any music lover with a cherished CD collection will ever need

Cambridgeshire, England -- QUAD's new flagship range of audio electronics expands with the arrival of a CD transport, precision-engineered to make the most of those fast-spinning 12cm silver discs. The Platina CDT joins the Platina Integrated amplifier and Platina Stream network player to complete QUAD's top-tier series, perfectly complementing its Platina siblings in design and ethos.

The Platina CDT shares the same steel chassis and anti-resonance feet, accompanied by a thick aluminium front panel for a reassuring sturdy feel. Its immaculately fashioned fascia is an exercise in purposeful restraint, adorned only by the power button and a black rectangular panel hosting a subtle trio of function buttons, the CD loading tray and a 4.3in colour display.

The latter matches the IPS LCD screen on the Platina Integrated and Platina Stream, delivering crisply rendered text and graphics with a wide viewing angle, metadata support and custom settings to meet its owner's requirements. Inside and out, this is a high-performance CD transport rigorously designed to delight and entertain for many years to come.

QUAD's Platina Integrated amp includes a superb built-in DAC, so it's entirely logical for QUAD to develop a matching CD transport. 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.

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



Left As a system, the Platina CDT perfectly complements the Platina Integrated amp and Platina Stream network player

QUAD Platina CDT engineered to excel

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

Construction is first-rate inside and out, the CDT's anti-resonance 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 Platina CDT lies a high-end CD mechanism, specially selected for its build quality and disc stability, coupled to a custom-designed CD servo control system for maximum precision and accuracy. Every element of the laser assembly, servo and control architecture – including a robust dual-core processing framework – 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.

QUAD Platina CDT precision timing

A TCXO (Temperature-Compensated Crystal Oscillator) provides an ultra-precise 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.

Incorporating a high-specification, ultra-low-noise Noratel toroidal transformer, QUAD has designed the internal power architecture to isolate critical pathways. Power supplies to the motor and laser servo circuits are isolated from the decoder stage that processes the digital audio signal, while power to the MCU and display is also kept entirely separate from components in the signal path.

This attention to detail, isolating the S/PDIF signal from all sources of electrical noise as it takes a direct route from the servo to the output stage, ensures the data stream remains meticulously clean and stable for optimal processing by the connected DAC.

QUAD Platina CDT hi-res versatility

There was a time when CD players or transports would only play regular 'Red Book' 16-bit/44.1kHz CDs, a standard established in 1980 to enable the storage of up to 74 minutes and 44 seconds of high-quality digital audio on a 12cm optical disc. The Platina CDT offers greater versatility, also playing CD-R, CD-RW and data CDs, and incorporating a USB-A port at the back to plug in USB storage devices. FLAC, WAV, WMA, AAC, MP3 and APE audio files are supported, each to their highest resolution, making the Platina CDT a hi-res audio transport as well as a CD-spinner.

As with data read from CDs, audio files accessed from USB devices benefit from the Platina CDT's sophisticated internal design, including the same high-precision clock system and low-noise output architecture, and a dedicated power supply to the USB input.



Left As a pure digital source, the Platina CDT not only makes the most of CDs but also plays hi-res audio from USB storage devices

QUAD Platina CDT perfect sound forever

When Philips and Sony launched the Compact Disc in 1982, it was promoted with the slogan 'Pure, Perfect Sound – Forever' (sometimes shortened to 'Perfect Sound Forever'). The assertion was that CD offered pristine digital sound without the hiss, crackles and susceptibility to wear of analogue sources like vinyl and cassette. Of course, CDs proved fallible to things like scratches too, but they set us on the path towards a world of digital entertainment media that continues to evolve some 44 years later.

Digital sound has certainly come a long way since 1982. But while hi-res audio has the potential to exceed CD-quality audio with higher sample rates and greater bit depths, a well-mastered CD played on

a high-performance CD player can still sound superior given the many variables inherent in digital files and streams. And that's without even considering the joy of owning a physical music collection.

With superlative build quality and internal architecture that maximises the sonic potential of every disc you play, the QUAD Platina CDT CD transport is the last 'CD spinner' you'll ever need. It's available from April with a choice of black or silver fascia, at an RRP of £1,499.



Left QUAD's top-tier audio electronics range is now complete with the arrival of the Platina CDT

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. 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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