



electromod
the sound connection

Press release

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Above Dan Clark Audio Aeon Core headphones

Reference-grade sound for under £1000

Dan Clark Audio's Aeon Core headphones feature an all-new planar magnetic driver, revised tuning and broader compatibility to deliver a new sub-£1000 closed-back benchmark

Buckinghamshire, England -- Based in Southern California, Dan Clark Audio (DCA) is an artisan headphone maker of the highest order. The company focuses on technical innovation and holds six patents, its headphones – distributed in the UK by Electromod – earning global acclaim for their exceptional sound, build and ergonomic qualities.

The Aeon line has served as the entry point to DCA's range since 2017, offering reference-grade planar magnetic performance at more accessible prices. The new Aeon Core headphones carry that mission forward, directly replacing the much-admired Aeon 2 and delivering meaningful advances across driver technology, voicing and the measurement science underlying the tuning itself.

The Aeon Core are closed-back headphones, engineered to deliver an unusually 'open' sound – a particular DCA speciality. Closed-back headphones offer reduced sound leakage and superior noise

isolation, but their acoustic characteristics tend to make them sound more 'closed in' than open-back headphones – for that reason, open-back headphones are often assumed to be sonically superior, albeit less practical in some environments. But DCA's closed-back headphones do a remarkable job of disproving the rule, their unique engineering delivering a supremely open and spacious performance.

The new Aeon Core are a case in point. The natural isolating qualities of their design – suppressing sound from leaking in or out – coupled to their ergonomics and electrical efficiency make them supremely versatile and suited to a wide range of environments. They're ideal for shared spaces – an office, for example. And they're perfect for mixing music or creating AV content, at home or in a studio. Best of all, they never sound 'hemmed in' or hyped in the bass in the manner of many closed-back designs – their sound is spacious, detailed, articulate and expressive, with a natural sense of fidelity to the recording.



Left Designed for broader everyday usability and an exceptional cost/performance ratio, the Aeon Core are DCA's most versatile headphones yet

The most efficient driver DCA has ever made

The Aeon Core's all-new planar magnetic driver stack was engineered around three priorities: efficiency, tonal consistency and unit-to-unit reliability. The result is DCA's most easily driven headphones to date; in fact, they're easier to drive than most planar magnetic headphones on the market.

While offering distinct sonic advantages over traditional dynamic driver headphones including lower distortion and a more spacious soundstage, planar magnetic headphones are typically more demanding of the connected amplifier. This makes them less suited to amps with lower power outputs – particularly in terms of current delivery.

However, with sensitivity reaching 97dB/mW, the Aeon Core match comfortably with portable DAC/amps, dongles and desktop setups, as well as more powerful headphone amps. A power delivery of 125mW into 16 ohms is sufficient to drive the Aeon Core; additional power is beneficial but not essential.

DCA spent a long time developing the Aeon Core's new driver stack, using a new diaphragm material to enhance efficiency and reliability, and deliver a strong cost/performance ratio. The company's V-Planar technology is applied to the diaphragm's surface to reduce distortion, enhance dynamic performance and optimise frequency response.

The Harman Curve redefined

Dan Clark – DCA’s founder and chief engineer – uses the Harman Curve as a key reference when tuning new headphone designs. The Harman Curve was developed by Harman International as an ‘ideal’ frequency response profile, resulting from landmark research into listener satisfaction with a large, diverse population sample and extensive double-blind listening tests.

In the headphone world, this is considered an important baseline to underpin performance. Harman Curve tuning is not strictly ‘neutral’, but it can produce a tonal balance that is engaging without being fatiguing, expressive whilst also natural and unforced. While many other aspects affect the overall listening experience, it provides assurance of a well-balanced performance that is valued by the ‘head-fi’ community and has become an industry ‘gold standard’.

However, since Dr. Sean Olive, Todd Welti and their team developed the original Harman Curve in 2012, the technology used for measuring headphones has evolved. Specifically, a more recent microphone – the GRAS RA0402 – has become universal in headphone development, alongside GRAS pinnae (models of the outer part of the human ear) that are different in shape and consistency to the ones used by Olive and Welti. As a result, the original system used in the development of the Harman Curve produced a different frequency response compared to equipment that is now standard across the industry when measuring the same headphones.



Left With their titanium headband and self-adjusting vegan leather suspension strap, the Aeon Core headphones deliver a comfortable, fuss-free fit

This has led to a built-in ‘error’ in the Harman Curve; headphones developed with now-standard test equipment may not be faithful to the intended result when using the original data as their reference. In 2025, Dan Clark worked with Olive to develop a corrected version of the over-ear target, using the original hardware as a reference point to produce an updated curve that translates accurately to current measurement systems. The Aeon Core are the first headphones developed using this new curve.

The effect is a tuning that's subtly but meaningfully different from prior Aeon models: a slightly leaner upper bass, a gently lifted lower midrange and a softer upper midrange. Vocals sit forward without hardness. Acoustic instruments retain body and weight. Bass is taut and present without overstatement.

Comfort without compromise

The Aeon Core retain the physical design that has defined the line: DCA's signature Aeon earpads, a lightweight titanium headband and self-adjusting suspension strap. The fit is instantly comfortable and

fatigue-free across extended listening sessions, aided by a weight of 440g – relatively light for a pair of planar magnetic headphones, especially considering the premium build and materials.

Sporting a new aluminium and black wood aesthetic, the Aeon Core look as impressive as they sound. Shipping commenced this week (14 June) from DCA's facility in Carlsbad, California, where all Dan Clark headphones are designed and built. They come with a detachable cable, terminated with the customer's choice of connector – balanced 4.4mm, 4-pin XLR or 6.35/3.5mm.

The Aeon Core is brought to the UK by Electromod, DCA's UK distributor, with stock expected at selected retailers from early July at an RRP of £920 inc. VAT. Customers who purchase the headphones from an official UK stockist benefit from a two-year warranty and UK-based tech and servicing support.



Dan Clark Audio is an independent headphone manufacturer based in Carlsbad, California, designing and building planar magnetic and electrostatic headphones for audiophile and professional use. Founded by Dan Clark, the company is known for its engineering-first approach, close engagement with psychoacoustic research, and a product line that spans from the Aeon series to the flagship Stealth and Corina. All DCA headphones are designed and made in the USA.

danclarkaudio.com



Founded by Mark Dolbear, Electromod is a leading UK distributor specialising in head-fi gear, from DACs to amps to headphones and associated accessories. The company focuses on product excellence and a personal style of customer support, operating as official distributor for class-leading brands such as Dan Clark Audio, Dekoni Audio, Écoute, Grell, Topping and Violectric. Mark has an engineering background and has worked in the audio industry since 1995, servicing products from the likes of Mark Levinson, Goldmund, Ayre Acoustic and Stax before forming Electromod.

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