The Absolute Sound (USA) – The 2011 Editors' Choice Awards

CD-5s CD-Player / DAC

This is a new-category product that combines a linestage, a transport, and a multiple-input, high-res DAC in a beautiful case. The sound is the most "analog-like" digital you may ever hear. Its 192kHz/24-bit, upsampling-switchable DAC reproduces instruments with extraordinary realism and astonishing air and space. Red Book becomes vinyl through this amazing machine. The best part is you can input multiple digital high resolution sources (including USB), with two analog inputs obviating the need for a linestage. Reviewed by PB in this issue.