



SOUND ADVICE Vol. 23, June, 8th 2007



Reimyo

*Impossible sound
made possible!*

The Reimyo DAP-777 Digital-to-Analog Converter

“Reimyo” is the Japanese word for

miracle and the DAP-777 is truly a miracle in sound. This purist DAC dispels with technology features and high sampling rates. Instead it uses a healthy dose of audiophile good judgment in putting a super-clean concept into action, which expresses itself in exquisite sound quality.



Reimyo makes its STEREO debut with the DAP-777. This device has already been on the market for several years and was recently perfected technologically through the addition of high-quality components and the expertise in how the interior structure was designed to satisfy audiophile demands. This D/A converter ranks in the top league of professionally engineered electronics.

A high-purity digital-to-analog converter unparalleled in its class. Eliminates virtually all digital/analog interference and reduces noise to an unprecedented level. Special internal wiring permits ultra high-speed transmission at nearly zero distortion. Employs Japan Victor's 20bitK2 processing. Also includes AES, BNC, optical and coaxial digital inputs, and balanced and unbalanced outputs.

* new product launch – see page 6

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THE ART OF CONVERSION

Turning bits and bytes into sounds and musical zeal is the job of digital-to-analog converters. STEREO tested three different D/A converters and discovered a whole range of interesting phenomena regarding their “data processing”.

HOW DAP-777 WORKS:

Converts normal 16bit CD to 20bit
How DAP-777 works

The diagram features a vertical axis labeled 'Level' with '16bit' at the top and '20bit' at the bottom. A horizontal axis is labeled 'Frequency Range' with '22.05kHz' below it. A grey box labeled 'Normal CD format' is positioned above the 16bit level. A green box is positioned below the 16bit level, with a green arrow pointing down from the grey box to the green box. A silver CD is shown between the grey and green boxes. A larger, multi-colored CD is shown to the right, with a dashed arrow pointing from the silver CD to it. The text 'Reimyo DAP-777' is written next to the larger CD, with the tagline 'Extended & high fidelity sound reproduction' below it.

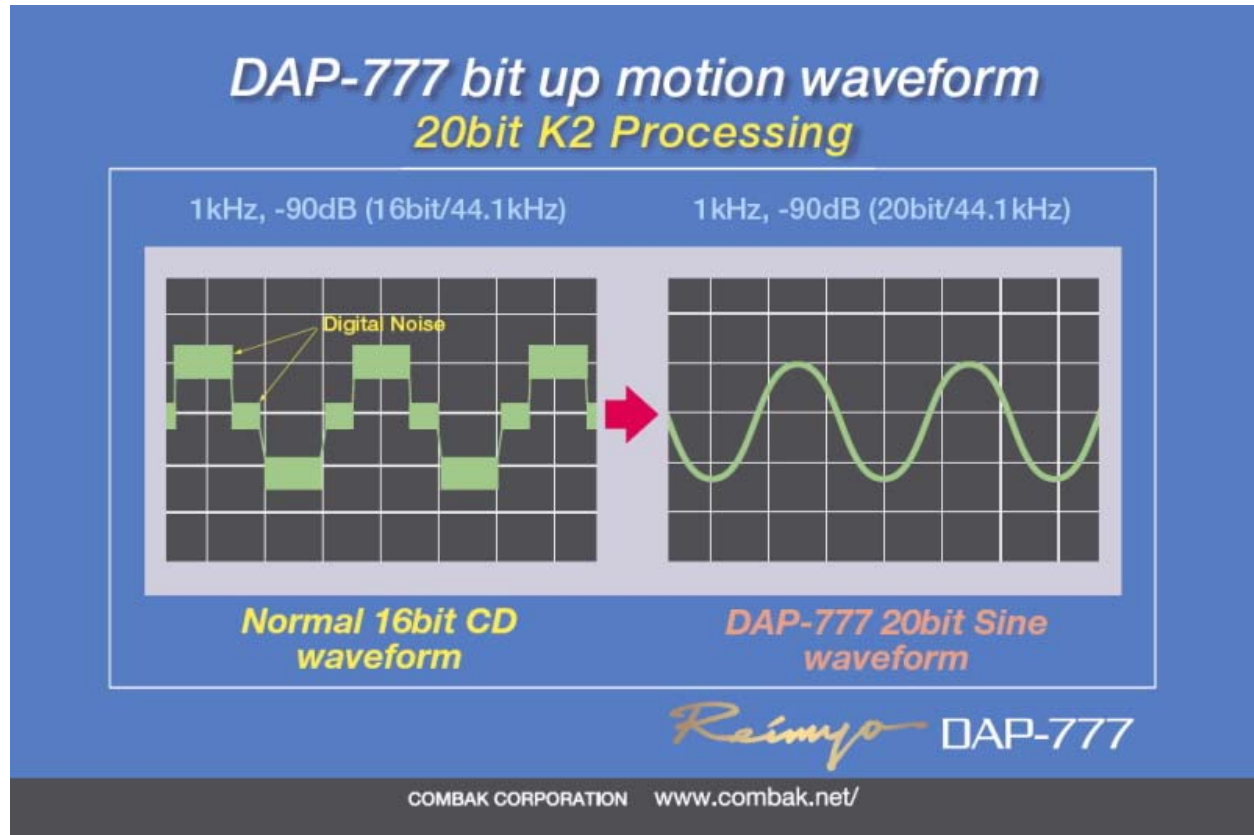
Wide Bit processing technology

COMBAK CORPORATION www.combak.net/

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EQUIPMENT REVIEW ●

Reimyo DAP-777 Digital To Analogue Converter

by Roy Gregory

“Combak Corporation's Reimyo CDP-777 received a rave review from AS in Issue 29. Combining the structural and vibrational theories that underpin the Harmonix accessories with the established JVC 20bit K2 converter technology employed to create the highly regarded XRCD discs, it redefined his expectations of the silver disc. There again, you might respond, at £9500 so it damn well should. And you'd have a point.

Like most DACs, the DAP-777 is housed in a slim casework: Unlike most, it's far from featureless. Beside the on/off switch, a four-position rotary switch on the left of the front-panel selects from the four available inputs. A row of four green LEDs shows you which one you've selected. Next to those are another three indicators showing pre-emphasis, data lock and any errors. A final bank of three LEDs tells you which of the three available sampling frequencies is currently in use. And before you get all excited and start thinking high bit-rate signals, this is a straight Red Book DAC, so your options are 48K, 44.1K and 32K. That translates to CD and DAT. If you expect the DAP-777 to update your digital front-end(s) then you are going to be sadly disappointed. If however, you want to maximise your pleasure from CD replay, that is quite another matter. The other thing to notice about the DAP-777 is the simple elegance of its casework. You might not normally look at the underside of a product



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but it's worth it this time. Not only is there the neatness of the fittings to consider, but the beautifully turned composite feet whose conical profile engages a set of large, cupped discs supplied with the player. But impressive as the casework is, it's only a taster for what's inside.

At the heart of the digital processor is the same JVC 20bit K2 chipset found in the CDP-777. It takes the 16bit input signal and converts it to 20bit resolution with 8x over-sampling. A good starting point, it nonetheless depends for its results on the way it's implemented. There are no guarantees in audio, and fewer still in digital audio. Lift the lid on the Reimyo and you'll begin to appreciate what care and attention to detail really means. There are the obligatory separate power supplies for the digital and analogue sections, but it's the execution that really stands out. Each element is a work of art, linked by bespoke wiring. There may be better-built products out there but I've not seen one."

AN ELEGANT PROOF

July 2006



"Music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting."

Gottfried Leibniz, Philosopher, Mathematician (1644-1716)

"The subject of digital-to-analog converters (DAC) naturally involves this core interplay between mathematics and music as well. All DACs convert analog signals to the simplest form of positional number systems: the binary system, invented by the great mathematician and philosopher, Gottfried Leibniz, around 1673. My interest in auditioning a few of today's DACs was to find out how successful designers have been in manipulating this dialectic between math and music and to hear for myself whether separate processors are still worth investigating to improve the front end of our systems, especially given today's advances in one box player designs.

X's and O's

I was drawn to the Reimyo DAP 777 DAC, ("DAP-777") for two reasons. First, my colleagues Key Kim and Clement Perry have both reviewed the single-box Reimyo CDP 777 transport/player (\$17,000), and concluded that the CDP-777 was a reference player in their systems. (Stereo Times, August, 2003). Would the DAP 777 bring similar rewards in combination with my belt driven C.E.C. TL-51XZ CD player used as a transport ("TL51XZ")(\$1590) and could I thus obtain a slice of the CDP-777's magic for a fraction of its cost? Secondly, I knew that the DAP 777 (like the CDP 777) utilized the same proprietary Japanese Victor Corporation (JVC) high resolution "Extended K-2" processing technology that is used to produce JVC XRCD recordings, many of which stand as my reference favorites. (For instance, check out the magnificent Take Love Easy, by Ella Fitzgerald and Joe Pass [Pablo, JVC XRCD 00312]. Kazuo Kiuchi, the humble designer of both the DAP 777 and CDP 777, had this to say to me about K-2 Extended Processing: "This IC processing is designed to extend 16bit information to 20bit. It is a very precise, high definition and faithful converter of the original source. In contrast, normal 16 bit processing is limited and actually is less than 16 bit due to common mechanical and electrical interferences. This IC processing makes a big difference in every aspect including details, depth, width, dynamics - everything you should experience in your listening sessions." In addition to K-2 Extended Processing technology, Kazuo also extolled the virtues of the DAP-777's custom made transformers, (separate for its analog and digital sections), its ultra clean custom internal wiring and its resonance conditioning process, proprietary to Combak."

Reimyo



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“Be that as it may, one thing is clear - Combak/Harmonix does *not* practice designed-here myopia. Rather, Kiuchi-San prides himself on identifying suitable partners with whom to *co-develop* specific engineering solutions, be it Bob Stierhout's Quantum Resonance Technology in the ALS line conditioner or JVC/Victor Japan's 20bitK2 digital processing in today's

subject, with industrial design and assembly handled by Kyodo Denshi. Combak refers to this enlightened cross-corporate approach as hi-tech fusion. It brings together core competencies of different specialist firms to fulfill a particular project mission as outlined by 'conductor' Kiuchi-San.

It reminded me of a famous Zen story. An acolyte gardener proudly shows off his skills to the master. It's autumn, with most of the leaves fallen. He has meticulously removed any traces of unruliness, with not a single withered leaf dancing in the wind or nestling in the dry grass. Perfection? Not according to the Sensei. He finds the real-life balance disrupted, its wildness sanitized. He proceeds to walk over to the compost area, stuffs the carefully discarded dry leaves into a bag and walks his gardens doling them out by the bushel, left and right like a ferocious Santa for Christmas. This anecdote hints at a Zen essential. It abhors artificial perfection, celebrates instead the natural bio rhythm of life. And the Reimyo's got it, that natural ebb and flow. It just so happens to be more attuned to the timing fixation of popular music...”

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New product launch:

CDT-777

*Just when you thought nothing could compare to the “Reimyo” one box player CDP-777. .
. We introduce the next great performer in the Reimyo series our new CDT-777, Compact Disc Transport. This transport with DAP-777 combo produces exquisite sound you have ever experienced!*



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