

# CAD

COMPUTER AUDIO DESIGN



## **Computer Audio Design 1543 DAC User Manual**

*Version 1.1*

*July 2012*

## 1) CAD 1543 DAC

We thank you for purchasing the 1543 DAC and hope you will enjoy it as much as we do.

The CAD 1543 DAC was designed with only one purpose - to be the best sounding source on the market, regardless of price. To achieve this we had to start from scratch and disregard normal materials and construction techniques typically seen in the audio industry.

The CAD 1543 DAC is different from other audio components.

There is no mains power switch. The power supplies are unlike any other used in a source component and need to be turned on a minimum of 24 hours to sound their best. The CAD 1543 DAC is best left plugged in at all times. If you are leaving for an extended holiday or a serious electrical storm occurs you should unplug the unit from the mains supply.

Please plug the DAC directly into the wall outlet and do not use an extension lead or outlet strip. The CAD 1543 DAC already has power conditioning circuitry built in.

There is one USB input, one pair of RCA phono outputs and no switches.

The CAD 1543 DAC performance is so high that the difference between USB interconnects can easily be heard. Please work with your dealer to find the appropriate USB interconnect.

All audio components improve with time but the CAD 1543 DAC is exceptional in this regard. You will find a noticeable improvement over the first 100 hours and continued improvement over the first few weeks.

## 2) CAD 1543 DAC setup

A driver **must** be installed in your computer before the CAD 1543 DAC can be used. Please install the driver before connecting the 1543 DAC to your computer.

Driver installation instructions and the appropriate driver can be downloaded from here:

<http://www.computeraudiodesign.com/downloads/>

Once the driver has been installed in your computer you can plug the 1543 DAC into the mains and connect a USB cable between the 1543 DAC and your computer. We ask that if the 1543 DAC is cold that you let it warm up for approximately 5 minutes before you start playing music. In some instances the power supplies may need this time to come up to full operating voltage.

If the 1543 DAC is connected to a pre amplifier ensure that the volume control is turned to minimum before you connect or disconnect power to the DAC. If the 1543 DAC is connected directly to a power amplifier ensure the power amplifier is turned off before you connect or disconnect power to the 1543 DAC.

We have also supplied installation instructions on our website for recommended playback software for Windows and Apple machines. These will be updated as improvements in audio software playback technology occurs.

### 3) Placement

The four feet are not attached so you can experiment with placement. Please work with your dealer to find an appropriate support. Try using three feet instead of four and moving the feet into positions other than the four corners.

The CAD 1543 DAC must be placed in an open area with good ventilation. It is completely normal for the DAC to give off considerable heat. When the DAC is first used the acrylic may give off a very slight odour. This will go away after about a week.

Do not use anything other than warm water and a lint free cloth to clean your CAD 1543 DAC. Window cleaners and similar solvents can damage the finish of the acrylic case. Please keep your packing carton. It is designed to properly protect your 1543 DAC for shipment.

### 4) Specifications

#### 2- Channel D/A Conversions:

- 44.1Khz, 48Khz, 88.2KHz, 96KHz & 176.4KHz
- The CAD 1543 DAC uses 16 bit resistor ladder DAC chips. This means that the DAC has a bit depth of 16 bits, but any bit depth will play through the CAD 1543 DAC.

#### DAC

- 16 x TDA1543/N2

#### Input

- Single asynchronous galvanically isolated USB

#### Output

- One pair of unbalanced low mass Tellurium Copper RCA interconnects

#### Output Level

- ~1.65Vrms Maximum
- Output Impedance = 135 ohms at 1KHz

#### Power Supply

- 230VAC, 50/60 Hz.
- The transformers can be wired to 115Vac operation at the factory.
- Power Consumption: < 25 watts

#### Dimensions

- 430 mm x 85mm x 270mm - W x H x D
- 8.2Kg

## 4) Warning

- To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or high moisture.
- To avoid electrical shock under no circumstances open the case. The case is sealed at the factory and breaking this seal will void all warranties.
- Keep the unit in a well ventilated area. Do not install in a sealed cabinet. The 1543 DAC gives off considerable heat.

## 5) Warranty

Computer Audio Design Limited warrants the 1543 DAC against defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service for two years from the date of first delivery to the original owner. Warranty is limited to the original owner only and is non-transferable.

If the CAD 1543 DAC becomes defective in normal domestic use, due to a fault in materials or workmanship, Computer Audio Design Limited will at its discretion (and subject to the terms contained herein) either regulate, adjust, repair or replace it free of charge within a reasonable time after return of such product during the Warranty period to the original retailer. This Warranty is offered to the first purchaser only and covers the cost of parts and associated labour required to correct such defects in materials or workmanship arising and advised to your retailer during a period of Two (2) Years from the original date of purchase.

Computer Audio Design Limited will pay for all labour and parts during this two year period.

You must pay all shipping charges if it is necessary to return the product to your retailer. However, if the required repairs are covered by this Warranty Computer Audio Design Limited will pay for the return shipping to any destination within the UK.

If you think that your product needs service please contact your original retailer first. Many simple faults can be corrected by your retailer. If a return is necessary your retailer will advise regarding packing the CAD 1543 DAC. The CAD 1543 DAC must be packed in its original packaging and returned to the retailer. Do not return your product to Computer Audio Design Limited.

If you are returning the product, use a reputable carrier - do NOT post. Computer Audio Design Limited cannot accept responsibility for the unit while in transit to the retailer. Please ensure that your equipment is insured by you during any transit or shipment for repair.

If the CAD 1543 DAC is returned in anything other than its original packing Computer Audio Design Limited will charge the customer £75 for new packing materials. Please keep your original carton!

Opening the product or modifying it in any way by the owner, will void the warranty. If the serial number has been removed, defaced or modified the warranty will be void. For all warranty claims, a copy of the original invoice must accompany the product.

This Warranty does NOT cover:

- Damage to the CAD 1543 DAC while in possession of a shipper, retailer, or consumer and not caused by defects in materials or workmanship.

- Damage or defects caused by abnormal or unreasonable use.
- Repairs or alterations of the CAD 1543 DAC by a person other than Computer Audio Design Limited or its resellers.
- Accident, acts of nature, misuse, abuse, neglect or unauthorised product modification.
- improper installation, removal or maintenance, or failure to follow instructions supplied with the CAD 1543 DAC. In particular failure to provide the CAD 1543 DAC with sufficient ventilation.

Computer Audio Design Limited sells the 1543 DAC through authorized dealers or directly only. Any Computer Audio Design product purchased through non-authorized dealers will automatically void the warranty.

## **6) Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**

Computer Audio Design Limited has WEEE Producer Registration Number: WEE/BH3181SZ.

Each year millions of tons of electrical products are thrown away. A new directive called WEEE aims to recycle as much of this as possible, but by its nature it's often a difficult and dirty process and currently much of this product is sent overseas where rules and regulations are less stringent. Please dispose of your electrical appliances properly.

The CAD 1543 DAC is CE approved and all materials used in the CAD 1543 DAC are ROHS compliant.