

MELCO

Introducing the MELCO N1ZH60 6TB Digital Music Library



Press contact details:

Andy Napthine
Napthine Porter Ltd.
andy@napthineporter.com
07920 425166

1st February 2016 – London – MELCO, the audiophile division of leading Japanese computer peripheral company Buffalo Technology, has announced the launch of the N1ZH60 Digital Music Library. Based on the same platform as the range-topping N1Z, the N1ZH60 employs 2 x 3TB high performance HDDs and medical-grade dual power supplies to create a more affordable model offering the same high-quality performance characteristics as the flagship. Whether requiring playback of music over a network or when combined with a DAC for USB audio, the N1ZH60 is the perfect environment for audiophiles to store and access their valuable digital music.

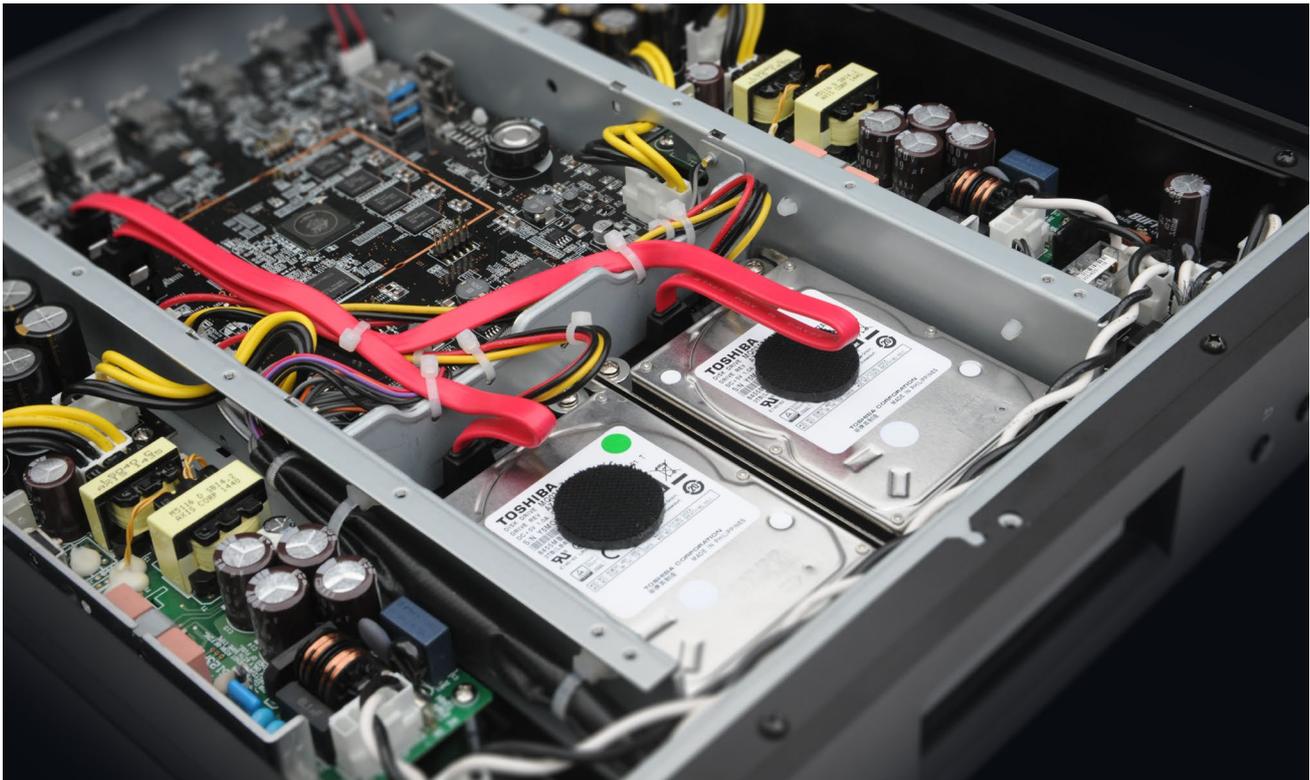
With digital audio files becoming the stable music content for audiophiles, having a reliable storage solution has become the essential component in any HiFi system. The range of MELCO Digital Music Libraries was introduced for this very reason, giving users a significantly higher-quality option over the off-the-shelf NAS drives normally employed for the task. Designed from the ground up as an audiophile Digital Source Component, each player can be used either as a network-enabled drive feeding an Ethernet connected streaming player via the dedicated 'Player' LAN connection or linked to a DAC for USB playback.

The Melco Digital Music Library is designed to be simple to setup and use, offering very simple Music backup, easy expansion, and simple import of Music from other sources including automated high resolution music downloads directly to the Melco with no need for Computers in the process.



MELCO N1ZH60 Quick Glance:

- 2 x 3TB HDD high capacity drives mounted in carefully tuned anti-vibration mounts.
- Dual Medical grade power supply units for electrical noise isolation
- Dual high-quality capacitor bank and multiple regulators to further improve stability and immunity from power supply variations
- Symmetrically designed H-Cross frame with superior screening of all components and mechanical stability
- Heavy anodised non-magnetic aluminium panels



Melco's N1ZH60 internal

Hand-built in Japan and offering the same audiophile build quality and component selection as its flagship sibling, the N1ZH60 gives audiophiles the same easy access and high-performance associated with every MELCO Digital Music Library. Capacity has been increased thanks to the 2 x 3TB HDDs, which have been mounted on a floating mechanism for improved stability and to reduce internal vibrations. Emphasising its audiophile credentials, the power supply of the N1ZH60 has received particular attention, with dual medical-grade power supplies feeding dedicated high-quality capacitor banks to separately power the internal processing and the external data communications, ensuring freedom from the effects of noise pollution.

As with the flagship N1Z, the N1ZH60 is housed in a rigid H-Cross frame chassis construction, with thick aluminium panels forming an inert platform for the delicate electronics. The whole chassis is mounted on specialist audio isolating feet from the respected Japanese brand TAOC.

Available from March 2016, the MELCO N1ZH60 will have a UK SRP of £3,500.00 and is distributed in the UK by Kog Audio.

Makoto Maki, the founder of MELCO inc. and Chairman of Melco Holdings Inc, said, "The N1Z 40th Anniversary Limited Edition is the culmination of our work to date to create the very best platform for real audiophiles to store and play their precious digital audio files. I am delighted to announce the launch of this special edition product, which, after 40 years, is still true to the original values of the MELCO brand – to create the finest audio components and give users the very best audio performance."

MELCO Digital Music Libraries - Explained

MELCO Direct Streaming Music (DSM)

Regardless of the precautions and optimisations within a digital music source/network player, it all comes to nothing when sensitive music data is put onto a LAN network. Compromises such as commodity grade data cables and data switches designed purely for rapid data transfer all have a detrimental effect on music files. To combat this, MELCO Music Libraries (MML) have a dedicated Ethernet port for direct link to the network player. By removing the necessity for external network switches, this architecture not only ensures the best possible data delivery from the MDML to the player, but also exposes the benefits of carefully engineered precision Ethernet cables.

The dedicated Player port establishes the relationship between the MML and the player, including management of the player IP address, and software filtering ensures that only appropriate data is presented to the Player for maximum fidelity.

A separate isolated Ethernet port provides a high-quality connection to the LAN, so that the network player will still be connected via the MML and, therefore, can be controlled by iOS or Android devices, whilst also connect to music streaming sites or Internet radio. But for the simplest purest playback of High Resolution music on a network player that has its own control, all that is required is the Melco Music Library and a precision Ethernet cable as the MML can then act as DHCP server.

Local USB-DAC Player

The Local USB-DAC player can be used in the same manner as the Network Player. The Local USB-DAC player is simply controlled from a UPnP Control App on a Smartphone or Tablet on the network. The App discovers the N1 & DAC combo as a Digital Media Renderer or Player on the Network as soon as a DAC is connected using a standard USB cable to the N1.

The N1 Local USB-DAC Player supports PCM up to 384 kHz / 32 bit, and DSD up to 5.6 MHz double DSD. Automatic sample rate adjustment is offered to match the capabilities of the connected DAC - e.g. 192 kHz is automatically downsampled if the attached DAC does not support that format. DSD to PCM conversion is also supported, with the conversion of DSD to 24 bit PCM for USB DACs that do not support DSD via a manual setting in the Menu.

The Playlist can be stored either on the Melco N1 (Mode 1 - OpenHome) to allow the playlist to be maintained even if the App is out of contact, or on the App itself (Mode 0) for when the App requires it.

The Melco Local USB-DAC player can be easily controlled by any UPnP control Point (App) and will play music from other UPnP libraries on the Network in addition to music stored on the Melco.

True Audiophile performance

Audio performance is paramount as the industry moves beyond the legacy standards of the CD format. This makes such issues as data integrity and jitter even more critical. For this reason, the MML range uses none of the IT industry norms in creating this solution.

Internal and external data communications are differentiated with separate and isolated power supplies, whilst SSD data management is especially optimised as the requirements for audio are quite different to PC requirements (music data is written infrequently and is rarely modified, rendering the usual SSD lifetime optimisation algorithms as inappropriate, especially as they also tend to impact on data integrity, as they operate in burst as required). The

MML uses highly stable purpose-built SSDs designed especially for audio playback, as they have a low level and consistent management algorithm that has zero impact on data integrity.

All digital processes, including the external Ethernet communications, are derived from a precision ultra-low jitter data clock to ensure total freedom from jitter-induced artefacts on final D/A conversion. The low jitter Ethernet connectivity is provided by RJ45 ports of exceptional stability and precision, which are also optically isolated on all lines, contrasting to the IT industry norm of using isolating magnetics or transformers. This ensures absolute freedom from interference and noise, which is otherwise fed into sensitive analogue electronics in the playback system. The Ethernet connectors have data transfer indicating LEDs, which can be extinguished to provide the purest connection environment.

Power supplies are critical in all high-end audio applications. Not only does the MML separate power supplied for internal and external data communications, but also specially designed components minimise common mode interference, protecting delicate analogue circuitry elsewhere in the playback system.

Two completely separate power supplies are provided with additional high capacity MELCO smoothing banks, all housed in a solid H frame reinforced extruded aluminium enclosure. The Japanese TOAC-branded isolation feet provide isolation from external influences.

Simple setup – no computers

In the spirit of the MML being a true Audiophile source, the MML does not have a web server and does not require a computer to either configure it or to enable it to play. A versatile array of useful customisations is available from the informative OLED front panel display and navigation buttons. During playback, the display shows the selected track along with sample rate. For ultimate audio performance, the display can be switched off during playback.

Storing music files to the MML is simple via the USB 3.0 socket on the rear or over the LAN, whilst backup is easy thanks to the dedicated rear-mounted BACKUP USB 3.0 socket, which automatically offers to start to backup the music data onto any external drive with enough capacity upon connection.

Expansion to over 12Tb is easily achieved by simply adding a USB drive to the dedicated rear-mounted EXPANSION port. No configuration is required – the additional capacity is simply available to store more music.

The simple Hi-Fi style front panel on/off switch means that the MML is up and running after only 15 seconds and can be shut down safely in under five seconds. Were there to be a power cut, all music files remain safe, thanks to the MML's robust software.

High Resolution Music Download direct to the Melco Music Library

Purchasing habits for music are changing dramatically and the Melco Music Library offers users the ability to download HD music from several online stores directly into the MML without any requirement for external computers other than to confirm the initial purchase – the MML polls all user accounts seeking newly purchased music and will download directly and verify the music files ready for immediate playing.

Purpose designed connectivity

Supporting the N1A and N1Z to allow the absolute optimum performance from MELCO DSM connectivity, a range of precision engineered Ethernet cables are offered in lengths from 0.5 to 3.0 metres. Using a patented locking mechanism, the precise impedance of the cable is carried through to the actual connector, removing a common source of impedance mismatch, data reflections, and consequent data jitter. All four data pairs in the cable are individually screened ensuring maximum data integrity and protecting fragile analogue components within the playback system.

Price and availability

The MELCO N1ZH60 is available from March 2016 from selected HiFi specialists with a UK SRP of £3,500.00. Distribution in the UK is by Kog Audio.

About MELCO - www.melco-audio.com

Established in Japan in 1975 as a specialist manufacturer of high-end audiophile components, MELCO, which stands for Maki Engineering Laboratory Company, produced its first product - the EP-10 Equaliser Preamplifier - with a unique silver voltmeter to indicate when it was time to replace the valves. Quickly appreciating the importance of the source component in any HiFi system, MELCO turned its attention to turntables, all using a silk thread to isolate the synchronous motor from the platter. Of particular note was the 3560 system, which sported mounts for three arms and had a massive 35kg platter with an elaborate vibration-eliminating base and incredibly strong precision main bearing. These highly sought after turntables are still considered amongst the best turntables ever created and set the DNA of MELCO products for years to come.

From those early beginnings Melco developed into the largest computer peripherals manufacturer in Japan (Buffalo Technology), offering advanced products based on rigorous R&D, including Wireless routers, Ethernet Data Switches and storage devices such as NAS drives.

Now the Company is proud to revive the highly-respected Melco brand, offering discerning audiophiles high technology networked audio components in the spirit of those much revered early Melco products, while incorporating the very latest research into reliable high performance networked devices and storage.

For further information, images, interview requests and press samples, please contact:

Press contact details:

Andy Napthine
Napthine Porter Ltd.
andy@napthineporter.com
07920 425166

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