



THE GRYPHON MIKADO SIGNATURE

## **Gryphon Mikado Signature CD Player**

Loyal owners of the award-winning Gryphon Mikado CD player know how that player re-defined the potential of the compact disc medium, dismissing all contenders to its crown. Now, the Signature Edition of the acclaimed Gryphon Mikado celebrates a giant step forward with 32-bit/192 kHz asynchronous sample rate conversion and four dual-differential 32-bit/192 kHz AKM digital-to-analog converters.

The Gryphon Mikado Signature also celebrates the compact disc's 25 years as the medium of choice for music in the home, demonstrating that in the skilled hands of Gryphon's driven, skilled engineers there is even more musical pleasure and realism to be extracted from the silver disc than you had ever imagined.

In sharp contrast to the ubiquitous multi-format players on the market, Gryphon Mikado Signature focuses exclusively on CD playback with no compromise and no concessions. When you choose the Mikado Signature, you know that its CD performance is not a mere afterthought. It is the player's very reason for existing.

## **Beyond the Hype**

The continued supremacy and evolution of the compact disc format should come as no surprise. Rival so-called high resolution formats vying for the CD's title as leading physical medium for home audio were not created to meet a real need on behalf of the music lover. The simple truth is that they were developed solely to allow corporations to replace income lost when key patents related to CD technology expired.

As the hi-rez hype fades and various heavily promoted audio formats fall by the wayside, the Gryphon Mikado Signature offers you all the benefits of 25 years of maturation and refinement of the CD medium in the service of music, enhanced by Gryphon's innovative audio engineering.

Resting on three points, the sleek, low-profile enclosure makes a stylish statement in acrylic and brushed anodized aluminum. Carefully selected in keeping with Gryphon's emphasis on minimal use of magnetic materials, these design elements make a significant contribution to function, as well as form.

The transport is Philips CD-Pro 2 with die-cast metal chassis, a legendary suspended, floating mechanism that features high reliability and extremely effective error cor-

rection. The transport has been heavily modified by Gryphon's capable engineers to fully optimize this outstanding device.

The instantly recognizable and much loved motor-driven Mikado "flying saucer" cover effectively seals the top-loading mechanism, isolating the disc from external forces. The 40 gram precision-tooled anodized aluminum CD clamp is an integral component with carefully balanced mass that contributes to the stability and consistent rotational speed of the disc.

## **Unfiltered Musicality**

Gryphon exploited the sonic improvements offered by upsampling long before others became aware of them. As early as the Gryphon CDP 1 in the late 1990's, upsampling to 88.2 kHz was incorporated, making it one of the first players to do so.

Today, the Gryphon Mikado Signature employs groundbreaking 32-bit/192 kHz sample rate conversion to shift aliasing noise upward in frequency, so that the upper corner frequency of the digital anti-aliasing filters can be more than doubled in comparison to the standard Mikado, which itself more than doubles the original 44.1kHz sample rate to 24-bit/96 kHz.



While upsampling cannot restore lost information nor generate new information from the original 44.1 kHz source (despite some manufacturers' disingenuous claims to the contrary), properly executed sample rate conversion in the Gryphon Mikado Signature does create optimal working conditions for the digital and analog circuits, allowing them to more accurately reproduce all the information that

is encoded on the disc. In comparison with conventional 44.1 kHz digital-to-analog conversion and lesser implementations of upsampling, asynchronous sample rate conversion in the Gryphon Mikado Signature offers enhanced impulse response, greater resolution of fine detail, sharper image focus and extended high-frequency response.



Without upsampling, a complicated brickwall analog filter is required following the conversion process to eliminate high-frequency noise interference. 32-bit/192 kHz upsampling in the Gryphon Mikado Signature allows the implementation of a gentler, simpler, high quality analog filter consisting of a single silvered Mica capacitor, setting new standards for musical transparency and silky smooth high frequency detail.

32-bit/192 kHz upsampling of the digital signal also results in extremely accurate handling of the crucial 16<sup>th</sup> bit, which represents the recorded music signal, preserving linearity for vastly improved THD+N performance.

The Gryphon Mikado Signature addresses crucial timing issues

effectively with independent, specially designed, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators with accuracy better than 5 parts per million.

The AKM D/A converters, selected on the basis of extensive listening tests, are employed in differential mode with two converters per channel for each side of the balanced output. In addition to true balanced operation, this method minimizes noise and distortion. The modular digital circuit layout ensures easy access for future upgrades.

The fully discrete, fully balanced analog circuits are pure Class A with zero negative feedback. The analog section is supplied with  $\pm 20$  Volts and careful attention has been paid to power supplies

with separate transformers and comprehensive regulation. Naturally, the signal path is as short as possible and the balanced analog outputs are the finest Neutrik, while the custom-made single-ended connectors are gold-plated.

### **Built for the Future**

Thanks to its distinctive modular design, Gryphon Mikado Signature is built to keep pace with digital technology as it evolves. Convenient modification of digital or analog circuits by your local authorized Gryphon service center as upgrades become available will ensure that your Mikado Signature remains on the cutting edge of CD playback.

The Gryphon Mikado Signature reveals subtle nuances, minute musical surprises that will add a new dimension to your listening pleasure. It is an elite component that combines elegant styling with stunning musicality and future-proof technology.

To experience the hidden treasures concealed in your CD collection, please book an appointment with your nearest Gryphon showroom for an opportunity to audition the Gryphon Mikado Signature CD player.





## Features

- ▣ Four Dual-Differential 32-bit/192 kHz AKM Digital-to-Analog Converters with separate regulated power supplies
- ▣ Upsampling to 32-bit/192 kHz for enhanced sonic performance
- ▣ Gentle digital filter roll-off for ultra-pure high frequencies
- ▣ Modular digital audio sections for possible future upgrades
- ▣ Two custom-built, temperature-compensated crystal oscillators with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- ▣ Heavily modified Philips CD-Pro 2 transport with all-metal chassis
- ▣ True Class A, fully discrete analog circuits with no negative feedback
- ▣ First-order analog filter with silvered Mica capacitor

- ▣ +/- 20 VDC regulated voltage supplies for best THD and noise suppression in analog sections
- ▣ Four separate custom-built toroidal transformers for digital and analog sections
- ▣ Completely isolated power supplies for digital section and transport/display
- ▣ 15,000 microFarad power capacitor banks per channel
- ▣ True Dual Mono Configuration
- ▣ Ultra-short signal path with minimal Internal wiring
- ▣ Four-layer printed circuit board with silver surface for optimal signal transfer
- ▣ Balanced analog outputs with PCB-mounted gold-plated Swiss Neutrik XLR sockets
- ▣ Single-ended analog outputs with custom-made PCB-mounted

- gold-plated phono sockets
- ▣ Balanced 110Ω AES/EBU and 75Ω S/PDIF digital outputs
- ▣ 40-gram precision-tooled anodized aluminum disc clamp
- ▣ Fully remote controlled operation
- ▣ Designed and built in Denmark



**Gryphon Audio Designs**  
Industrivej 9  
8680 Ry, Denmark  
Phone + 45 8689 1200  
Fax: + 45 8689 1277  
email@gryphon-audio.dk  
www.gryphon-audio.com