



DISC PLAYER OF THE YEAR Gryphon Audio Designs Ethos

Although the Gryphon Audio Designs Ethos is a very fine digital converter in its own right, capable of supporting high-resolution PCM and DSD files from sources like USB, it is its performance as a CD player that marks the Ethos out for greatness. From its bold design statement to its extraordinary performance, this top-loading Danish device is simply CD replay unabashed and unashamed.

The design of the Ethos is as distinctive as it is functional. Many products rest on three feet for extra stability; Gryphon takes this one stage further by making the product triangular!

However, beauty is more than skin deep on the Ethos. Gryphon's electronics have always stressed a dual mono and fully symmetrical balanced operation, and the Ethos is no exception. It's fully balanced throughout the digital DAC domain as well, implementing eight ESS Sabre ES9038PRO 32-bit DAC chips in full dual-differential dual-mono mode. It also features a user-selectable range of custom asynchronous

sample rate conversion options as well as digital roll-off options, seven distinct PCM filters and three DSD filters.

Back to CD though; in our test, Alan Sircom said "The Gryphon Ethos player makes CD sound a lot like high-resolution audio is supposed to sound. It's impressively clean (yet less bright and forward than people expect), remarkably dynamic and extremely extended into the upper and lower registers. Around about five discs in, you begin to ask yourself whether audio took a massive wrong turn by going down the streaming route when Compact Disc really can sound this good."

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the introduction of the Compact Disc. Gryphon Audio Design's Ethos player proves that there's life in the old disc yet! **+**

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