

BRYSTON

A Lifetime of Music

MEMO: To All Bryston Customers SUBJECT: Bryston BDA-3 DAC – Reviewer Comment

“Hey Bryston folks:



The BDA-3 is one heck of a DAC! The finesses and dynamics in decoding hi-res files, such as DSD to 5-6MHz and 24/384 ensures that Bryston maintains its super accuracy legacy with this latest D/A.

With my premium AKG K812 HP's and the BHA-1 HP amp — as well as the new Pass Labs HPA-1. I can really listen deep in to the audio detail — especially with jazz and classical. The stereo soundstage is spacious and deep, and that optimization of the AKM DAC chip and your well-implemented analog signal path make for a smooth (but natural sonic character) that is a cut above many of they ESS Sabre DAC-equipped DACs. My own 24/384 stereo guitar samples never sounded better than the BDA-3 through a set of HPs.

The D/A is equally effective via speakers. I have only listened for two days, but already on one system, that includes my Pass Labs x350.8 stereo MOSFET amp (or my Bryston 14SSTII reference bipolar amp), Coda high current



preamp, a pair of Martin Logan Montis electrostatics and Macbook Pro player source with Audirvana, the BDA-3 is impressive. A reviewed Heigel DAC is similar in its sound (same chip), which I really like as well, but it is about \$1,200 more and offers less features. (No double speed DSD or greater than 192 kHz native playback.

The BDA-3 is definitely getting our Everything Audio Network **Stellar Sound Award**, planned for publication next month, and also will go into nomination for the "Best DAC of The Year"

John Gatski,
Publisher,
Everything Audio Magazine.