

Mystique Z and Mystique X Comparison

Both DACs are incredibly similar in design and component parts, so they both have similar organic character, natural timbres, and musical flow.

The PCM58P DAC chip has a slightly smoother, slightly more open, slightly more resolving, slightly more lively, and slightly more nuanced presentation.

The most notable improvements the PCM58P has over the AD1862N-J DAC chips is the degree of liveliness and the level of emotional expression.

If you listen to electronic music it will likely be more system dependent as to which of the two DACs you prefer. If you listen to acoustic music you will likely prefer the more lively and emotionally engaging presentation of the Mystique Z.

Circuits, Components, and Features	Mystique X	Mystique Z
Vintage Burr-Brown PCM58P DAC Chips		X
Vintage Analog Devices AD1862N-J DAC Chips	X	
True Single-Ladder R-2R Decoding Architecture	X	X
Reads Up To 24-Bit 192Khz PCM Digital Files	X	X
Non-oversampling w/ No Digital Filters or Algorithms	X	X
XMOS Asynchronous USB Input w/ Femto Clocking	X	X
Coaxial RCA S/PDIF Digital Input	X	X
TOSLINK Optical Digital Input		X
Balanced XLR AES/EBU Digital Input	X	
Direct-Coupled Output Stage: No Caps or Transformers	X	X
Staccato Class A Discrete Op Amp Modules	X	X
Vishay "Naked" TX2575 Resistors in Analog Signal Path	X	X
2-Stage Tin Foil Polystyrene Anti-Aliasing Filter Caps	X	
3-Stage Tin Foil Polystyrene Anti-Aliasing Filter Caps		X
LC Choke Input Analog Power Supplies	X	X
Silicon Carbide SiC Zero-Recovery Schottky Diodes	X	X
Belleson SPX Ultralow-Noise Regulators	X	X
Mundorf M-ylitic AG+ Caps in Main Power Supplies	X	
Bank of Organic Polymer Caps in Main Power Supplies		X
Paper-in-Oil Bypass Caps in Analog Power Supplies		X
3 Independent Power Supplies		X
5 Independent Power Supplies	X	
Furutech Low-Mass RCA Jacks and Neutrik XLR Jacks	X	X
Resonance Dampened Extruded Aluminum Chassis	X	X
Advanced Internal EMI/RFI Shielding		X