



Musical Fidelity Streaming Philosophy

by Heinz Lichtenegger

Musical Fidelity has always been driven by the vision to create musically engaging audio products which can hold this fidelity standard for many generations to come. Many MF classics which are still in the hands of proud owners have proven the success of our design philosophy.

The A1, an all-time classic in Hifi but also products like the B, E and F series have made Musical Fidelity one of the most acclaimed manufactures for Hifi electronics in the last 40 years. Also, today the M series, especially the M6, has now been on the market for over 10 years and keeps going on to be the best reasonable priced true High-End amplifier.

Yet, the industry is now more and more moving in a completely other direction, producing integrated products, which are overloaded with features, containing the latest technology like streaming and Bluetooth.

We at Musical Fidelity think this is the wrong way.

1) If you put lot of high-tech in a product the product almost becomes a fade out product at the date of purchase. Most high-tech technology changes rapidly, even within 1 to 2 years streaming services or Bluetooth standards may change and often your integrated product is NOT upgradeable anymore.

What stays the same is the ANALOG technology, which in the end determines the performance of an amp.

2) When you squeeze in a lot of digital circuits, like WiFi or Bluetooth, high frequency distortion is the consequence. In the opposite, a huge power supply with lots of magnetic radiation is NOT good for any digital circuit.

Therefore, we recommend to keep at least streaming and amplification SEPARATE.

- A) You get better performance.
- B) You have your good amp for decades.
- C) You are flexible to cost-effectively upgrade your high-tech streaming box by changing to the next generation which is usually much better and cheaper.

Consequently, Musical Fidelity has now developed a standalone Hi-Res, high-tech streamer which you can connect over USB to any M series amplifier (not M2si as it is analog only) because they all have an USB input as well as DAC on board. If you want to get a streamer DAC only, then you can combine it with the great MX-DAC or M6x DAC.

Our MX-Stream is a universal, transport-only network device that can take any online or network streaming service to your integrated amplifier or DAC. All you need is an existing USB Class 2.0 Audio input. The MX-Stream's digital audio circuitry is a complete custom design from scratch. We have separate power supplies and high-end voltage stabilization components for all the different PCB units. We have advanced re-clocking – even the main CPU is operated by an audio optimized clock, which is completely unheard in typical streaming solutions, as they typically run with standard CPU clocks like those in regular computers. Every incoming digital signal is cleaned up from the very beginning. All audio files that come in and out, are the best they can be by eliminating all unwanted noise that can be found in common streaming solutions. With an optimized software, we were able to push this high-tech hardware design to its absolute limits. All of this resulted in the first near-zero jitter streamer we have ever seen.

The MX-Stream can be controlled via mobile App, in any web-browser and you can connect HDMI- and touchscreens for a full, haptic touch screen experience. A full Roon-Ready certification, support for all lossless high-resolution streaming services that are available right now and hi-res formats (up to 32bit/384kHz and DSD256) and standard network features like NAS support, USB-hard drive support, UPNP/DLNA, Bluetooth, Shareport (for iOS-devices), web-radio, CD-ripping with automated tagging and automatic music library indexing bring unparalleled versatility to the table.



Sidenote

To all Musical Fidelity lovers and long-term customers:

Yes, MF was once also going in the direction of all in one units. It was the biggest mistake in all of MF history.

After getting rave reviews and the highest acclaims, the software environment of the big software suppliers, like music services themselves, and the IT infrastructure changed, so that MF was not able to keep on updating the product so the whole functionality of the unit was at 100%. In the end it was creating frustrated customers and it was very, very close that MF was losing its existence.

The solution was that the new management decided to sell the product for half the price, only for the hardware price, which is great and stable and will make fun for decades as any MF product. So, we learned our lesson and want to continue in the way we got successful.

