Stream Box S2 Ultra

„A versatile streaming bridge with solid sound potential and excellent control."
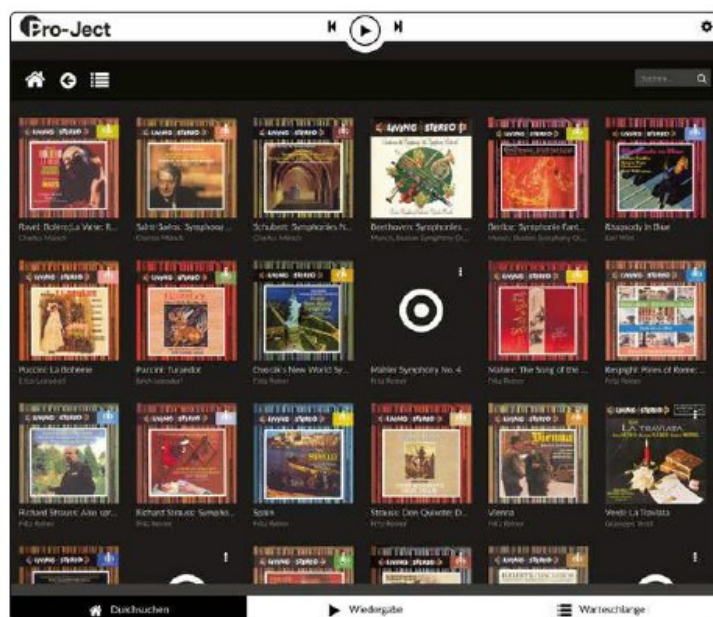

TV? Why not!

In fact, the bridge has an HDMI output for monitors and TV sets. We tried this with three different screens, and the display even fit perfectly to an aged 4: 3 monitor. After a short pondering not surprising: The newly developed remote software of the S2 is a so-called web interface, which can be accessed from any device. So **you don't need an app, but simply enter the phrase** "streamboxs2ultra.local" or the IP address of the device in a web browser such as chrome or firefox.

User interface

Handling and the range of options of the streamer are very good. The UI looks a little spartan at first, but it offers deep intervention options. **The current playlist**, which is stored in the read-only memory of the S2, **is very sofisticated**. If you have to restart the bridge for some reason, the playlist is retained, vary in order or saved as a fixed playlist (which can be deleted at any time). Not only the organization of the music library has been solidly implemented. You can easily taste any aspect of playback, such as integrated digital volume control, DSD data handling or resampling, and bring the box into perfect harmony with the connected DAC.

Practically every feature that goes beyond pure music reproduction (HDMI, resampler and level control) can be deactivated for a flawless audiophile conscience. Despite all these possibilities, **the menu has remained clear,** and should be so even for laymen. On the playback side, in addition to uninterrupted playback (web radio), the S2 handles all formats up to 32 bits and 352.8 kilohertz. DSD reproduces them up to the 256 standard, whereby one has the choice of transmitting the signal natively or via DoP to the DAC.

Features:
Streaming Bridge (network player without own D / A converter), indexes, arranges and plays music files UPnP / DLNA servers and USB drives of any size, Tidal, Spotify and Web Radio (Shoutcast), Multiroom (up to six devices), Shairport (Airplay alternative), HDMI for TV screens, Jitterkiller (also for bypass computers), control via Web interface from any browser, Roon Ready (in progress)
Connections: LAN / WLAN, 2 x USB-In, Micro-USB (loop-through point for one "By pass" computer), HDMI, USB DAC output (including jitter killer and five volts supply voltage)
Supported formats: all sound formats up to 32 bits and 352.8 kHz, DSD64, DSD128 and DSD256

Here you can see the album representation in a browser (Firefox), the display on a TV screen is basically structured identically.

How the „bypass switching" works.

Verdict
A versatile streaming bridge with solid sound potential and excellent control. The HDMI option brings a breath of fresh air to UPnP streaming.

In playback mode
The Pre Box complements the Streamer optimally anyway. Its USB port is tailor-made for the S2 bridge, which outputs signals only through a dedicated DAC interface, enhanced with all sorts of Jitter Killers. Looped computers also benefit from this signal correction, which is why the Streamer in Pro-Ject Jargon is sometimes called "USB Detox Device".
The team turned out to be a very dynamic combo in our listening rooms, conveying impulses and attacks tastfully in Genelec's active G Four. Tonally atmospherically tuned, clean and down to the last detail, we were able to fine-tune the sound via the complex digital filter setting of the converter to our taste.
To conclude, we can say that Pro-Ject's first bridge with its deliberately reduced concept and the many, partly innovative, possibilities makes it one of the most exciting products of the year!