Stream Box S2 Ultra + Pre Box S2 Digital
„Small, but impressive."

stereoplay verdict

Sound (DSD | 24/96 | 16/44,1)   64/64/63

| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 |

| overall rating | 88 points |
| Value for money | outstanding |

stereoplay Highlight
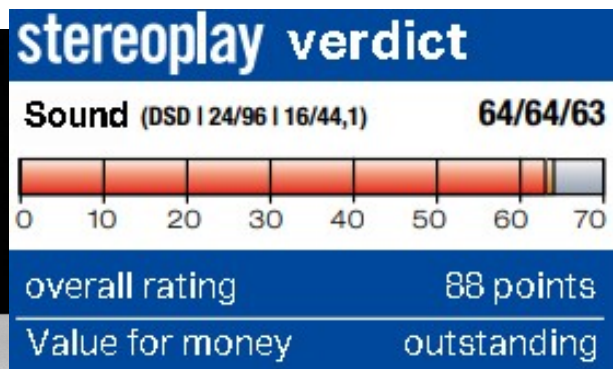
They fit easily on a palm. They have servers and hard disks for breakfast and top it up with delicious DSD support. Once you got them, you never want to give them away.

A logical concept

Although each device operating on its own makes sense, this combination is definitely a coherent one: Streaming, DAC and preamp in two separate chassis, offering connections for HDDs, NAS, PCs as well as the option of wireless streaming from the smartphone; expanded with the conventional, physical digital inputs of the Pre Box for the connection of TV and CD player. This full service package could also be expanded with a screen. Those who are completely into high-end can add an audiophile power supply and thus create a smart preamp. You can go even further and upgrade the preamp with the USB output of Pro-Ject's AD-Phonobox... Well, and how does it sound?

Extremely good: dry, fast, with verve and punch. The ESS9038 is normally not found in this price range and brings this smart combination to a level, which usually requires a much higher investment.

„DAC" is an USB output delivering digital signals to a DAC, making the Stream Box a universal, timeless device. „HDMI" provides a connection for a screen or touch panel.
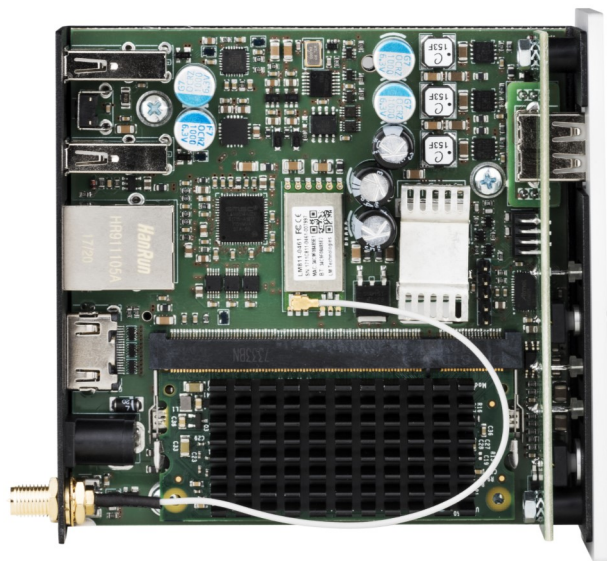
The secret of the Stream Box S2 ultra lies in its industrial version of the single-board computer Raspberry Pi as well as in a sophisticated software package.

The main menu of the stream box leaves no questions unanswered.

„Our mission is to offer high quality audio components for music lovers at a very competitive price."

Verdict:

Pro-Ject's smart boxes silently evolve to an affordable high end kit with an incredibly good price-performance ratio. The plethora of digital connections and source options is well implemented, handling is easy, possibilities almost endless and updates are possible.

What more do you want? So lets grab your hard disks.