

FAQ on computer based music playback and on Weiss Firewire enabled units

Applies to:

DAC2, ADC2-FW, AF11, VESTA, DAC202, INT202, MEDEA-FW, DAC1-MK2-FW

Buyer's Guides

I am new to computer based audio playback. Where can I get information?

Here are some links, papers, resources etc. on computer based playback:

<http://www.weiss-highend.ch/computerplayback/ComputerPlayback.html>

I don't know which Weiss unit is appropriate for my application.

See the buyer's guide here:

http://www.weiss-highend.ch/computerplayback/guide_to_computer_based_music_playback.pdf

Drivers

Where can I get the latest drivers?

Go to any of the pages of the Weiss firewire products. There are links to the drivers. Email

Daniel Weiss (weiss@weiss.ch) to get the username / password to download the drivers.

All products use the same driver.

The driver installed correctly, but the Weiss Firewire control window says there was no Firewire device connected.

Power down the firewire unit (for some you have to unplug the mains cord to power down fully) and power up again.

There are some Firewire chipsets in computers which do not work with audio units. You may test the compatibility of your computer by installing the driver (a Weiss unit is not required to do that) and select the "System" tab in the Weiss Firewire control window.

Everything seems to work but the music suddenly stops playing after some time and/or ticks are generated occasionally.

Make sure to have the latest driver installed (see top item below "Drivers"). Experiment with the "Operation Mode" setting in the Weiss Firewire control panel. Also there are some Firewire chipsets in computers which do not work with audio units. You may test the compatibility of your computer by installing the driver (a Weiss unit is not required to do that) and select the "System" tab in the Weiss Firewire control window.

Level Control

How do I enable the level control mode with the DAC2 or Minerva units?

Check the latest manual which can be downloaded from the appropriate product pages.

Will there be a firmware which allows for volume control even for older DAC2 / Minerva units? (SNR 1041 or below).

Yes, we will provide such an updated software.

I have a DAC2 or Minerva unit with serial number above 104, but there is not level control feature available. What can I do?

On the appropriate products pages there are links to download the latest firmware which subsequently can be downloaded to the DAC2 / Minerva device. Minerva users go to the

DAC2 page here: <http://www.weiss.ch/dac2/dac2.htm>

Email Daniel Weiss (weiss@weiss.ch) to get the username / password to download the firmware.

Is a digital level control a decent way to control levels.

That depends on the implementation. With our units the level control is at least as good as an analog level control. See the white paper on digital level control here:

http://www.weiss-highend.ch/computerplayback/Digital_Level_Control.pdf

Minerva

What happened to the web pages for the Minerva converter?

We had to take them off the website due to name rights issues with the “Minerva” name. For information, updates, drivers etc. go to the DAC2 pages: <http://www.weiss.ch/dac2/dac2.htm>

Differences Vesta – INT202 – AFI1

What is the difference between Vesta, INT202 and AFI1?

- The AFI1 is a unit from our pro audio product range. It supports up to 8 channels of AES/EBU to/from Firewire interfacing and up to 16 channels of ADAT to/from Firewire interfacing. For stereo High-End HiFi applications the Vesta or INT202 units are recommended.

- The Vesta also allows for interfacing AES/EBU (or S/PDIF) signals to Firewire, i.e. it allows for recording those signals onto a computer. Plus allows for playback from computer of course.

- The INT202 is just for playback from computer to AES/EBU or S/PDIF. The INT202 in addition has a level control and absolute phase change facility. Plus the facility to check for bit transparency of the audio source, e.g. the player software on the computer. The electronics of the Vesta and the INT202 are basically the same and thus the sonic qualities are the same.

All three units support the dual wire AES/EBU scheme for sampling rates of 176.4 / 192 kHz.

Differences Minerva - DAC2 – DAC202 – Medea – DAC1-MK2

What are the differences between the Minerva, DAC2, DAC202, Medea and the DAC1-MK2?

The Minerva and the DAC2 use the same electronics. They differ in terms of their faceplate and feet. The Minerva is discontinued, the DAC2 we continue to manufacture.

The Medea and the DAC1-MK2 use the same basic electronics. They differ in terms of RCA connectors and the housing. They use a completely different design to DAC2 / Minerva. The DAC202 uses the same digital electronics as DAC2 / Minerva but a completely new analog section.

Which of the converters fits your taste most you would have to find out for yourself. All are excellent converters. In the end it is a matter of taste which one is preferred.

Also read paragraph 3.) in this guide:

http://www.weiss-highend.ch/computerplayback/guide_to_computer_based_music_playback.pdf

Transferring my Vinyl collection to computer files

I would like to transfer my vinyl records to the computer.

This can be done via our ADC2-FW unit which is an A/D converter with firewire output.

See:

<http://www.weiss.ch/adc2/adc2.html>

A phono preamp is still required to feed the ADC2-FW. On the computer an appropriate recording software is required.

Player software

Which is the best player software?

For OSX systems the iTunes / Amarra combination is recommended. The Amarra program takes care of automatic sampling rate switching depending on the file played.

For Windows based systems a player which supports ASIO and/or WASAPI playback is preferred. Some of those are: Foobar, Media Monkey, JRivers. ASIO and WASAPI take care of bit transparent playback, i.e. the audio data is not changed in any way during playback.

Cables

Which is the best Firewire cable?

The Firewire cable does not influence the sonic quality with the playback via Weiss units. As long as the bits are transferred unaltered all is fine. We recommend to buy not the cheapest cable and make it as short as practicable. Expensive "high-end" type cables are not required.

Can I connect a Firewire 800 (1394b) computer to the Firewire 400 (1394a) Weiss devices?

Yes, just buy the appropriate cable with one end the Firewire 800 connector and the other end a 6 pin Firewire 400 connector. All Weiss units have the 6 pin type connector.

Some computers have the 4 pin Firewire 400 connector. For those use a 4 pin to 6 pin cable.

Which AES/EBU, S/PDIF or analog cables should I use?

Check our range of cables here:

<http://www.weiss-highend.ch/chiron/index.html>