



Network-attached player/preamp/DAC  
 Made by: Pixel Magic Systems Ltd, Hong Kong  
 Supplied by: Sound Design Distribution Ltd, Cardiff  
 Telephone: 0800 0096213  
 Web: www.luminmusic.com; www.sounddesigndistribution.co.uk  
 Price: £8495

**AUDIO  
FILE**



# Lumin P1

As is often the case with network audio products, a question concerning the Lumin P1, £8495 in a choice of silver or anodised satin black casework, is what it is *exactly*. The company suggests it can be just about anything you want: a network player, a DAC, a preamp (complete with analogue inputs), or all three. It can even function as a two-channel audio processor for a home cinema, courtesy of its HDMI connectivity.

So, while this isn't quite Lumin's flagship – that's the £11,495 X1 – it's a remarkably capable and flexible device. And, thanks to the excellent Lumin app, it's one that's easy to set up and operate.

The P1 stands 10.4cm tall – not least, we suspect, to give it the

'It was hard not to be wowed by the "piano in the room" effect'

rear-panel space to accommodate all its inputs and outputs in addition to housing the shielding for its dual-toroidal power supply. As well as HDMI and conventional digital inputs on AES/EBU, coaxial and optical, there's an asynchronous USB-B port and analogue ins on both XLR and RCA sockets.

For networking there's Ethernet on an RJ45 port, plus an SFP fibre socket that allows the P1 to be electrically isolated from the network to which it's connected. Both options can be used at once,

for example connecting to a user's home Internet service via Ethernet, and direct to a NAS containing music via fibre.

Outputs are also comprehensive. Both balanced XLRs and unbalanced RCAs are provided, configurable as fixed- or variable-level, and are joined by digital outs on BNC and USB-A should you intend to hook the unit into an external DAC. However, given the performance of the P1's own dual-mono, fully-balanced DAC stage – supporting up to 384kHz/32-bit LPCM and DSD512 – and its analogue output, we're not sure why anyone would want to.

## SPARKING INTO LIFE

However you use it – as a DAC, preamp/player or Roon endpoint – the P1 delivers a sound able to grab your attention from the off. With the driving rhythms of Sparks' 'Bullet Train' [Balls; BMGCAT550CD], it laid down a solid bass and opened up the dense mix. Also, with the lush Toni Visconti mix of 'The Angels', the wide, deep soundstage the player allowed added enormously to the ambience of the track.

This combination of weight and clarity dovetailed well with the psychedelic metal of Somali Yacht Club's 'Echo Of Direction' [The Space; Season Of Mist SOM 648D]. All the complexities of the recording – from gentle rock and multi-layered vocals to crashing guitars and thundering rhythm section – could be appreciated in their magnificence.

**ABOVE: Available in black or natural finishes, the stylish P1 features a machined alloy fascia and deep set, dimmable display. Under the bonnet, two ES9028PRO DACs form part of a balanced analogue stage that includes Lundahl output transformers. Lumin also provides an IR remote but most controls are in the app**

This same superb openness was beneficial with the exuberance of Florian Sempey's *Figaro? Si!* recital of Rossini [Alpha 791D; 96kHz/24-bit], where the speed of the playing of the accompanying orchestra, and the richness of the soloist's voice, were handled well. Meanwhile, a glorious grasp of instrumental timbre made the level of detail in Jan Gunnar Hoff's *Home* set [2L 168; DXD] simply breathtaking. Combine the P1 with a suitably revealing system, and it's hard not to be wowed by the 'piano in the room' effect of this masterful recording.

There are various volume options here, including the (third-party) Leedh lossless processing system, which brought a shade more detail when playing with low output settings, whether into a unity gain input on a preamp or straight to a power amp. Mind you, the sound appeared even more convincing when the P1 was used as a player via its fixed 'maximum' output.

But while differences observed between these options were interesting, if subtle, they were minimal compared to the benefits of adopting the fibre connection for network music playback. Excellent though the Ethernet feed may be, switching to fibre just brought that extra snap into focus, and details 'popped' a little more, further increasing the P1's ability to enthrall with music both new and familiar.

## VERDICT

Yes, the Lumin P1 is undoubtedly expensive, but the fact that it looks and sounds so striking, works so seamlessly with its app, and has all the flexibility most will ever want, means it's an attractive buy for any high-end connected system. ☺

## HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum output level / Impedance	5.80Vrms / 18ohm
A-wtd S/N ratio (Digital / Preamp)	118.0dB / 82.2dB
Distortion (1kHz, 0dBFS/-30dBFS)	0.00006% / 0.0011%
Distortion & Noise (20kHz, 0dBFS/-30dBFS)	0.0003% / 0.0022%
Frequency resp. (20Hz-20kHz/45kHz)	+0.0 to -1.2dB / -5.1dB
Digital jitter (48kHz / 96kHz)	9psec / 11psec
Resolution (re. -100dBFS / -110dBFS)	±0.1dB / ±0.2dB
Power consumption	19W (19W standby)
Dimensions (WHD) / Weight	350x107x380mm / 12kg