GUSTARD

DAC-A18

High-performance Audio DAC User's Manual

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- 1. The screen will display the current input channel, encoding format and sample rate, volume and other status.
- 2. Turntable can adjust digital volume attenuation; or adjust each menu option in the menu state.
- 3. Function button, short press to cycle through digital input channels, switch items in the menu; long press to enter or exit the menu.

Rear panel



Display and menu

1. The DAC-A18 uses an OLED screen for real-time status display and functional operation. The following graphic shows the status of the main page of the screen.



2. Digital input channel selection:

The DAC-A18 has a total of 5 input channels. In the display state of the main page, short press the function button, you can select the current input channel in the

order of COAX——AES——USB——IIS——BT.

3. VOLUME:

When the screen is the main page, you can directly adjust the digital volume attenuation function of the DAC-A18 by operating Turntable. Rotate counterclockwise to attenuate the volume and clockwise to increase the volume. The volume can be attenuated from 00dB to -90dB for a total of 90 digital volume positions.

4. Settings menu:

In the home screen state, press and hold the function button to enter the setting menu. In this state, short-press the function button to cycle through the menu items to be modified. Turntable is used to adjust the currently selected menu option. When the screen is in the setting menu, long-press the menu key again to return to the main page. The menu is switched by the movement of the arrow, in order:

> ---PCM Filter ---DSD Filter

-Bluetooth power control -Phase invert -Display control -Brightness

PCM FILTER	SHORT SHARP
DSD FILTER	L-BW
BT POWER	SELECTED
PHASE INVERT	DISABLE
DISPLAY	AUTO OFF
BRIGHTNESS	3

5. Menu items' functions:

The following is a detailed introduction of each menu item:

a. PCM FILTER:

DAC-A18 has a total of 6 PCM digital filter types. Turning Turntable clockwise will sequentially select in the order of SHARP—SLOW—SUPER SLOW—SHORT SHARP—LOW-d SHOT—SHORT SLOW. Turn Turntable counterclockwise The cycle is reversed. SHARP is a fast roll-off digital filter, which is the most common type of digital filtering. It is the most accurate and neutral in the sense of hearing. SLOW is a slow roll-off. It has smooth out-ofband attenuation characteristics of the signal, but also because of its in-band attenuation. The attenuation characteristic will make the sound soften; SHORT SHARP / SHORT SLOW is a short delay version of SHARP / SLOW.

SUPER SLOW is similar to the effect of NOS. The extension at both ends is reduced, and the intermediate frequency is naturally suitable for human voice. LOW-d SHOT is a new filter of AKM Company, which adopts the asymmetrical pattern of front and rear ringing, and then produces a new sense of hearing.

A18 recommends the use of SHORT SHARP digital filtering.

b. DSD Filter:

The DAC-A18 DSD filter has two different bandwidths that can be adjusted, L-BW is low bandwidth; H-BW is high bandwidth. The AK4499 does not use a fixed frequency as the cutoff frequency of the filter, but automatically switches according to the DSD sampling rate. Please see the table below for the cut-off frequency:

DSD rate	DSDFilter	Internal DSD Filter Cut Off Frequency @fs = 44.1 kHz
DSD64	L-BW	37 kHz
DSD64	H-BW	65 kHz
DSD128	L-BW	74 kHz
DSD128	H-BW	131 kHz
DSD256	×	238 kHz
DSD512	×	476 kHz

* The bandwidth of DSD256 and DSD512 are fixed and are not affected by the options.

c. BT POWER

Bluetooth power control, A18 high-definition Bluetooth module can only be turned on when the Bluetooth channel is selected. Option "SELECTED" Bluetooth can only be connected when the current input channel is Bluetooth.. Option "ALWAYS" will always enable Bluetooth connection. The Bluetooth name of A18 is GUSTARD BT.

d. PHASE INVERT (Analog output phase inverting switch):

This function has two options: DISABLE (RCA positive phase output - XLR American standard) and ENABLE (RCA inverted output - XLR Japanese / European standard) optional.

When this function is DISABLEd, the RCA output of the DAC-A18 is positive phase, and the XLR balanced output is the American standard polarity output, which is 1 ground, 2 hot, and 3 cold.

When this function is ENABLEd, not only the RCA output is the inverting output, but the XLR balanced output will be the Japanese/European standard polarity output, which is 1 ground, 2 cold, and 3 hot.

e. DISPLAY (display control):

"ALWAYS" means that the screen is always on and displays various states.

"AUTO OFF" automatically turns off the screen. If there is no operation, the screen will automatically turn off after 10 seconds.

Any operation of the fuselage and remote control will wake up the screen. If there is a new change in the current playback sampling rate, it will also wake up the screen.

f. BRIGHTNESS (Screen brightness):

This menu item adjusts the brightness of the OLED screen, and a total of 8 screen brightness levels can be adjusted.

IR Remote control



- * DAC-A18 uses the new remote control, please press and hold the DAC key for more than 3 seconds to enter the DAC operation mode.
- (1) Mute button: In the non-mute state, press this button once, the DAC-A18 will be muted; press this button again to unmute.
- (2) Menu button: Press this button once to enter the setup menu of the DAC-A18, press this button again to exit the setting menu.
- ③ D-pad and OK button: After entering the setting menu of the DAC-A18, use the up/down of the D-pad to switch the function to be adjusted, and adjust the options by left/right. Press OK to confirm the result and return to the main page.
- ④ Back button: Returns to the main page state.
- (5) Volume minus button: When the DAC-A18 is in the main page state, press this button to decrease the volume.
- (6) Volume plus button: When the DAC-A18 is in the main page state, press this button to increase the volume.

Note: • The operating distance varies depending on the angle. • If there is something between the remote control and the IR sensor, it may not operate normally. • If the remote control will not be used for a long time (one month or longer), remove the battery. • If the battery Leaking, please thoroughly clean all the residues in the battery compartment and install new batteries. • When using other devices controlled by infrared rays, using this remote control may operate these devices by mistake.

Windows driver installation

*The unit's accessories contain a CD containing the GUSTARD USB Audio driver. This driver can also be downloaded from our official website http://www.gustard.cn

*This driver supports Windows 7 (SP1 and newer); Windows 8; Windows 10

- 1. For users who use a desktop PC to connect to the DAC-A18, it is recommended to use the native USB2.0 interface. It is also highly recommended to use the USB port on the back of the chassis. Because the USB port on the rear panel of the chassis is directly connected to the motherboard. The USB port on the front of the chassis is connected to the motherboard with an extension cable, which has a certain negative effect on high-speed signals.
- 2. Please connect the DAC-A18 to the computer with the USB cable, then turn on the power of the DAC-A18. The computer will prompt you to find new hardware and try to set the device. If you don't see this prompt, please try to replace other USB ports or manually restart DAC-A18.

✿ 正在设置设备 正在设置"Gustard USB Audio 2.0"。 3. Open the CD and double-click to run the Gustard_USBAudio_v1A_2018-10-15_setup.exe program.

If the "User Account Control" window appears, click "Yes".



4. Click the next or install button as prompted.



5. When the installer checks the device, if there is a red text prompt: Setup requires that the device is..., please restart the GUSTARD DAC-A18 or re-plug the USB cable.



6. The figure below shows the screen for successfully installing the driver. Click Finish to complete the installation.



DSD playback settings using foobar2000

1. Open the folder foobar2000_DSD_0.7.X, double-click to run ASIOProxyInstall-0.7.2.exe, and then click next or install to complete the installation.



2. Run Foobar2000. Click File -> Preferences.



3. Click on "Components" on the left and click on "Install" on the bottom right.

- Components 1	Installed components:	Ri	ght-click a com	ponent for ad	ditional options
Components Display Context Menu Colors and Fonts Playlist View Keyboard Shortcuts Media Library Album List Networking Playback DSP Manager Output Shell Integration Tools Tagging freedb Tagger Advanced	Installed components: Name Album List CD Audio Decoder Converter Default User Interface Equalizer FFmpeg Decoders File Operations foobar 2000 core Monkey's Audio Decoder Online Tagger ReplayGain Scanner Resampler DSP (SSRC X) Standard DSP Array Standard Input Array WASAPI output support ZIP/GZIP/RAR Reader	Version 4.5 3.0 1.5 0.9.5 1.2 3.2.4 2.2.2 1.3.16 2.1.7 0.7 2.2.2 0.57 1.3.1 1.0 3.3 1.8	ght-click a com Module foo_albun foo_cdda foo_convi foo_ui_st foo_dsp_ foo_input foo_fileop Core foo_input foo_freed foo_rgsca foo_dsp_ foo_osp_ foo_out_ foo_unpa	nponent for ad nlist erter d eq std ssrcX std std wasapi dk	ditional options
	Get more components Why are some components grayed ou	<u>t2</u>	2 Install	<u>C</u> opy report	Get updates
	Reset all Reset page		ок	Cancel	Apply

Use the mouse to select two files at the same time, or press Ctrl to select two files at the same time. Then click "Open".

T	« GL	ISTARD US	S → foobar2000_DSD_0.7.>	0 v	搜索"fool	bar2000_DSD_0.7.X"	9
组织 🔹 新建了	7件夹						0
ConeDrive	^	名称	^	修改日	期	类型	オ
- 此由脑		🔛 foo_	input_sacd.fb2k-component	2015/4	4/6 21:41	foobar2000 Co	
		🔛 foo_	out_asio.fb2k-component	2013/	5/24 17:17	foobar2000 Co	
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	文件名	UNE TOO	ULL ASIC, DAR CULLUUTELL				

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가장 것은 것 같은 것은 것은 것은 것은 것은 것을 다 가지 않는다.	2.1.7	foo_input_monkey		
Inline Tagger	0,7	foo_freedb2		
ReplayGain Scanner		foo_rgscan		
Resampler DSP (SSRC X)		foo_dsp_ssrcX		
Standard DSP Array		foo_dsp_std		
Standard Input Array		foo_input_std		
WASAPI output support		foo_out_wasapi		
IP/GZIP/RAR Reader	1.8	foo unpack	- 12	
unknown - please apply changes to load)	(unknown)	foo_input_sacd		
unknown - please apply changes to load)	(unknown)	foo_out_asio	1	
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Two rows of component information will be added to the component list, followed by "Apply".

The window shown below will pop up and click "OK". Then Foobar2000 will restart.



4. Click File \rightarrow Preferences again.



5. Expand Playback - Output - ASIO, and double-click foo_dsd_asio.

Preferences: ASIO			?	×	
···· Components	ASIO drivers				
Context Menu Colors and Fonts Playlist View Keyboard Shortcuts Media Library Album List Naturation	ASIO Chord 1.05 Combo384 ASIO 1.03 BR AVO-HD foo_dsd_asio GROOVE TEST NATIVE GROOVE TEST NATIVE GROOVE TEST NATIVE GROOVE TEST NATIVE GROOVE TEST NATIVE GROOVE TEST NATIVE	river DF 33			
Networking	Double-click an entry to activate the driver's control panel.				
✓ Playback	Use 64-bit ASIO drivers				
1 DSP Manager	Run with high process priority				
2 ASIO 3 	Custom channel mappings				
			Add N	lew	
✓ Tagging freedb Tagger			Edi	t	
and Advanced			Remo	ove	
	This feature allows you to configure alternate channel mapping soundcards. You may need to close and re-open the foobar 2000 preference added mappings to appear as output devices in the "output" pr	is for your ASIO-enabled es dialog for your newly age.			
	Reset all Reset page	OK Cancel	Ap	ply	

6. In the "foo_dsd_asio v0.7.2" window. Select "Gustard USB Audio" from the drop-down menu of the first line ASIO Driver.

Select "ASIO Native" from the drop-down menu in the second line of the DSD Playback Method.

For other settings, please make the same selection according to the red box in the figure. Then click the X in the upper right corner to exit.

foo_dsd_asio v0.7.2				×
ASIO Driver:	Gustard USB Audio Device			•
DSD Playback Method:	ASIO Native			•
DSD to DSD Method:	None	•	Fs:	•
PCM to DSD Method:	None	•	Fs:	•
DSD/PCM Transition:	50 ms	•		

 Click "Output" on the left, then select "ASIO:foo_dsd_asio" from the drop-down menu for "Device" on the right.

Components	Device		
· Display ··· Context Menu	ASIO : foo_dsd_asio	2	
 Default User Interface Colors and Fonts Playlist View 	Buffer length	-	
Keyboard Shortcuts			
· Media Library		960 ms	
Album List	Warning: setting too low buffer ler	oth may cause some visualization effects to st	op workina.
Networking			1
Playback	Output format		
V Output	Output data format:	- 10	Dither
ASIO	Output data format will be chosen auto	matically for the selected device	
	Ouput data format will be chosen add	inaucally for the selected device.	
Tools			
freedb Tagger			
Advanced			

8. Then click on Tools -> SACD and select "DSD" from the drop-down menu in the Output Mode on the right. Finally click "OK" below to complete the setup.

Preferences: SACD						?	X
Components ✓ Display Context Menu	Output Mode:	DSD v 3					
Contract Hend Default User Interface Colors and Fonts Defaults View	PCM Volume:	+6dB 🗸 🗍 D	eClicker [Log Overload	S		
Keyboard Shortcuts	PCM Samplerate:	352800 💛					
- Album List	DSD2PCM Mode:	Multistage (Fixed-Poin	t)	- Load	Save		
DSP Manager	Preferable Area:	Stereo 🗸 🗸					
ASIO Shell Integration Tools 1 agging 6 freedb Tagger Advanced	Editable Tags	Store Tags With ISO	I				
	Reset all Res	et page	4	ОК	Cancel	Åp	ply

DSD playback troubleshooting for Foobar2000

1. Q: Why does my foobar2000 preference window play (Playback) -> Output (Output) does not show ASIO?

A: Because you don't have the ASIO component installed. Drag the foo_out_asio.fb2kcomponent file from the foobar2000_DSD_0.7.X folder to the space in the box to the right of the component option in the preference window of foobar2000, then click the "Apply" button in the lower right corner. Click OK in the Restart foobar2000 dialog that pops up at this time. After restarting foobar2000, you can find the ASIO option.

😔 foobar2000 v1.3.8				
参数选项: 组件	Re Conservé		×	
▲播放	已安装组件:	已找到的组件: (右键点击可查看插件的附加选项)		
DSP 管理器	名称	版本	组件	
 ▲ 輸出 ▲ ILA ▲ ILA ▲ SACD → SACD → 快捷鍵 > 媒体库 → 外壳交互 → 网络 > 显示 → 组件 → 高级 	ASIO support CD 音频解码器 foobar 2000 核心 Monkey's Audio 解码器 Super Audio CD Decoder 标准 DSP 组 标准输入组 播放增益扫描器 均衡器 默认用户界面 专辑列表	2.1.2 3.0 1.3.8 2.1.7 0.7.8 1.3.1 1.0 2.2.1 1.0 0.9.5 4.5 1.5	foo_out_asio foo_cdda Core foo_input_monkey foo_input_sacd foo_dsp_std foo_input_std foo_rgscan foo_dsp_eq foo_ui_std foo_albumlist foo_albumlist	
 ④ ● ● ● ④ foobar20 → foob 组织 ● ● Install ● 新建文 ● 桌面 ● 桌面 ● 最近访问的位置 ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	aar2000 Components 4 4 推 件夹 foo_input_sacd.fb2k-component foobar2000 Component 169 KB foo_out_asio.fb2k-component foobar2000 Component 182 KB	€ foobar2000	2 C P ② ※ ③ ※ ③ ※ ③ ※ ③ ※ ③ ③	

2. Q: Why is there no SACD in the tool options in my foobar2000's preference window?

A: Because you don't have the SACD component installed. Drag the foo_input_sacd.fb2k-component file from the foobar2000_DSD_0.7.X folder to the space in the box to the right of the component option in the preference window of foobar2000, then click the "Apply" button in the lower right corner. Click OK in the Restart foobar2000 dialog that pops up at this time. After restarting foobar2000, you can find the ASIO option.

■播放	已安装组件:	已找到的	已找到的组件: (右键点击可查看插件的附加选		
DSP 管理器	名称	版本	组件		
▲·锏凸 ASIO - 丁旦	ASIO support CD 音频解码器	2.1.2 3.0	foo_out_asio foo_cdda		
SACD	foobar2000 核心	1.3.8	Core		
快捷键	Monkey's Audio 解码器	2,1,7	foo_input_monkey		
媒体库	Super Audio CD Decoder	0.7.8	foo_input_sacd		
外壳交互	标准 DSP 组	1.3.1	foo_dsp_std		
网络	标准输入组	1.0	foo_input_std		
显示	播放增益扫描器	2.2.1	too_rgscan		
组计	「「切倒器」	1.0	foo_dsp_eq		
	默认用尸芥面	0.9.5	foo_ui_std		
	「「ち館列表」	4,5	roo_albumlist		
() . (fachar)0	转换器	1.5			
v v foobar20	转换器 ▶ foobar2000 Components	1.5 「」 授家 foobar	foo_converter		
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3. Q: I have installed the above two Foobar2000 components. Why do I see an error window like the one below when I play the DSD file?

播放错误	
未能解决的播放错误: The process receiving or sending data has termina	ted
放	in the second
	42
	07
	03
	57
	47
	03
	28
	25
	- 34
Armur neuler - Pops caviar 12 The sleeping beau	y - vvaitz 4:32
日停止。	

A: Because the version of your ASIOProxy conflicts with the version of the SACD decoding component. The **correct** version is shown below, all of which are 0.7.X.

	已安装	组件:		已找到的组	1件: (右键点击可查看	돨插
	名称	×		版本	组件	
	ASIO s CD 音行 foobar Monke	support 频解码器 2000 核心 v's Audio 解码器		2.1.2 3.0 1.3.8 2.1.7	foo_out_asio foo_cdda Core foo_input_monkey	
	Super	Audio CD Decoder	ſ	0.7.8	foo_input_sacd	
	标准口	DSP 组	_	1,3,1	foo_dsp_std	
ASIC DSD DSD) Driver: Playback Method: to DSD Method:	Gustard USB Audio Device ASIO Native] Fs:	DSD64	scan p_eq std umlist ↓ verter	
PCM	to DSD Method:	None	Fs:	DSD64		
			-			

Some users use the old version of foobar2000, and its SACD decoding component stays in the 0.6.X version. If the ASIOProxyInstall-0.7.2. exe program is installed, the version of the foo_dsd_asio window is 0.7.2. This creates a conflict with the SACD decoding component.

There are two solutions.

One is to update the version of the SACD component, and the installation method is consistent with the solution to the second problem. However, some versions of the foobar2000 component are locked and cannot be replaced. Please reinstall the new version of the official original Foobar2000 to solve the problem.

Second, if you are not willing to reinstall foobar2000, you can install the old version of ASIOProxy, such as ASIOProxyInstall-0.6.5.exe. Google search ASIOProxyInstall-0.6.5.exe to find the download link, which can also solve the problem.

ASIO Driver:	Gustard USB Audio Device				-
DSD Playback Method:	ASIO Native	ж			•
PCM to DSD Method:	None	-	Fs:	DSD64	•

```
Product specifications
Sample rate supported by digital input channels:
COAX : PCM 16-24bit/44.1-192kHz; DSD DOP64
     : PCM 16-24bit/44.1-192kHz; DSD D0P64
AES
USB
     : PCM 16-32bit/44.1-768kHz: DSD D0P64-D0P256: NATIVE DSD: DSD64-DSD512
     : PCM 16-32bit/44.1-768kHz; DSD D0P64-D0P256; NATIVE DSD: DSD64-DSD512
IIS
BT Bluetooth 5.0 : PCM LDAC, AAC, SBC, APTX, APTX LL, APTX HD and other high frequency
encoding, LDAC can achieve 24B / 96K high code transmission
*USB input supported operating system: WIN7 SP1/WIN8/WIN10 32-64bit; macOS; Linux
Analog output performance:
Amplitude frequency response: 20-20kHz /+-0.6dB
DNR: >124dB
Crosstalk: -129dB @ 1kHz
THD+N: <0.00015% 1kHz
IMD: <0.0008%@-3dBFs
RCA Output level: 3Vrms (VOLUME 00dB)
Output impedance 100 ohms
XLR Output level: 6.0Vrms (VOLUME 00dB)
Output impedance 100 ohms
Other specifications:
AC Power supply: AC 115V/230V 50/60Hz
Power consumption: <15W
Dimensions: Width 220mm * Height 50mm * Depth 170mm (Excluding protrusions)
Weight: 2.5Kg (including packaging)
```

Product Warranty:

You will enjoy the 2-year free warranty and lifetime maintenance after the date purchasing GUSTARD's DAC-A18 product.

* The manufacturer bears only the freights from Chinese mainland. Part of the freight and tax generated from overseas will be solved by the user with the dealer negotiation.

Free Warranty Service

GUSTARD DAC-A18 from the purchasing date in the free warranty period, the user uses the product in normal, and the product fails due to component quality or manufacturing problems.

Beyond the Warranty Service

Belonging to one of the following circumstances, products are no longer provided warranty service.

a. Products from the date of purchase has exceeded a predetermined warranty period.

b. Model, barcodes and purchase date do not match the actual product and warranty card.

c. Without GUSTARD technician permission, unauthorized modifications to the circuit, components or self-repaired product.

d. Damaging caused by irresistible natural forces.

e. Beyond the permitted use of environmental damage.

f. Damaging due to incorrect use or improper storage. Including but not limited to: the voltage is too high to burn the circuits or components; Bumping and resulting in damaging the shell or internal; damaging due to water, oil, liquid and excessive dust; product oxidation or corrosion, etc.

g. Beyond the warranty period, such as an individual component damage, appearance due to human damage, firmware modifications lead to unable to work by unauthorized users. GUSTARD commits to take reasonable maintenance fees (except large area components or circuit board burned beyond repair). Freight and maintenance costs, material costs are required the user to bear.