

GUSTARD

A26

High Performance Audio DAC

User Manual



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About MQA (Master Quality Authenticated)

MQA is an award-winning British technology that delivers the sound of the original master recording. The master MQA file is fully authenticated and is small enough to stream or download.

When the screen shows 'MQA' or 'MQA.' it indicates that the product is decoding and playing an MQA stream or file, and denotes provenance to ensure that the sound is identical to that of the source material.

'MQA.' indicates that not only is it playing an MQA Studio file, but the file has also either been approved in the studio by the artist/producer or has been verified by the copyright owner.

'OFS' confirms that the product is receiving an MQA stream or file. This delivers the final unfold of the MQA file and displays the original sample rate.

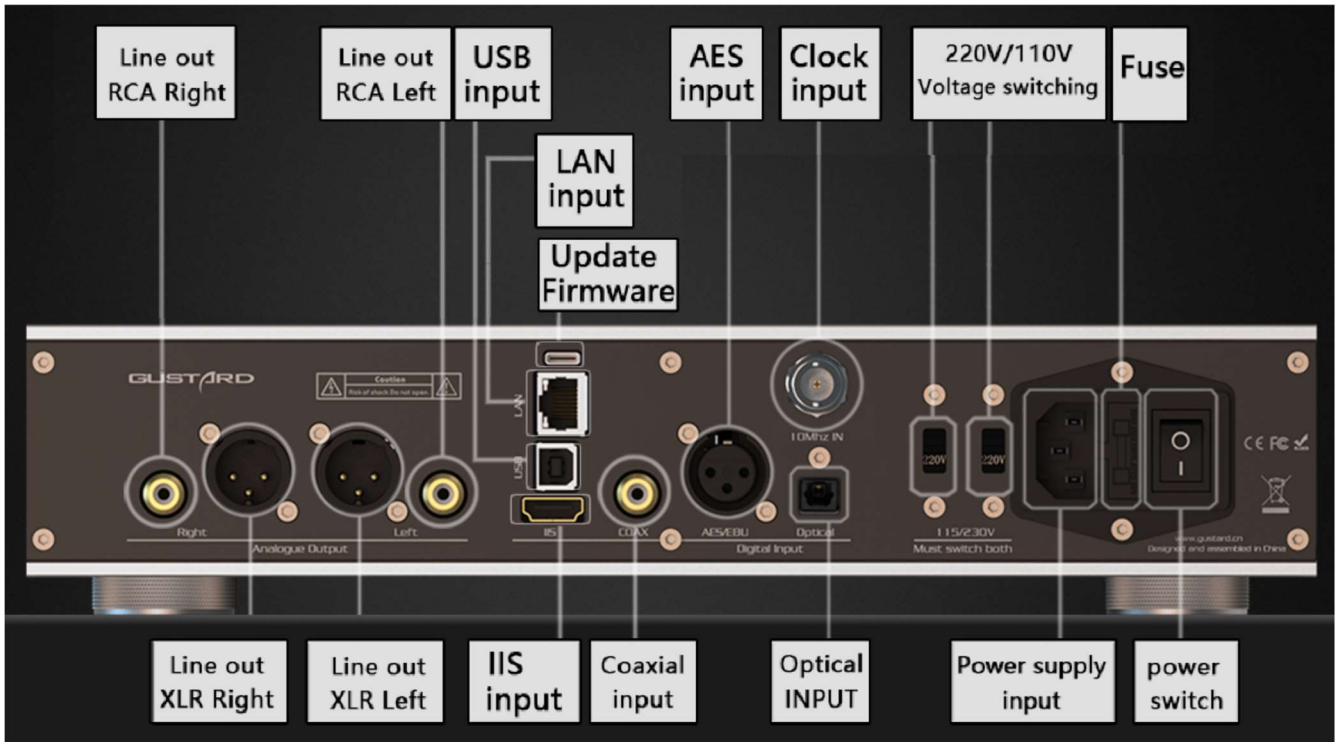
MQA is a registered trade mark of MQA Limited © 2018

Front Panel



1. **Waiting/using switch** (default waiting when power on)
2. **Screen:** Input Chanel, format, rate and volume.
3. **'+' '-' button:** Adjust volume in main screen, change item's value in menu.
4. **Input/menu:** short press to switch input channel, long press to enter/exit menu.

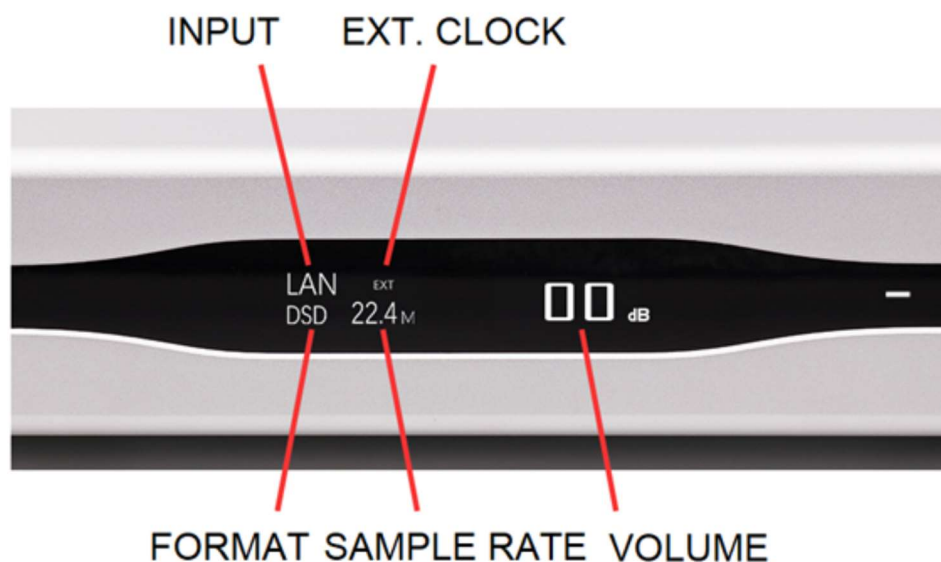
Back Panel



*two switches of AC standard must be set to the same to prevent the product

Screen and menu

1. A26 uses a high-resolution OLED screen to display the working situation and functions. The following figure is main page of the display.



2. Input selection

A26 In main page, short-press the menu button can select the input port by the order of COAX—AES—IIS—USB—OPT—LAN.

3. Volume

In main page, press '+' '-' keys can adjust A26's attenuation. There are 90 steps of digital volume from -90dB to 0dB. Increase the volume from 0dB to 'FIXED' can bypass the attenuator

4. Menu

Long-press the menu button can switch between main page and menu page. On the menu page, click the menu button to choose the option and turn the encoder to change the value.

1) PCM FILTER

A26 has 6 types of PCM filters provided by AKM:

Sharp Roll-off (Default)

Slow Roll-off

Short Delay Sharp Roll-off

Short Delay Slow Roll-off

Super Slow Roll-off (NOS-like)

Low Dispersion Short Delay Filter

2) DSD FILTER

Narrow Bandwidth (Default)

Wild Bandwidth

3) DSD DIRECT

Disable (Default)

Enable

Enable to bypass the internal processing. The raw DSD stream is sent into DAC directly .

*The volume adjustment is bypassed in this mode, so it is better to decrease the volume of amplifiers before entering this mode.

*When enable, there will be a slight clicking sound when switching between PCM and DSD

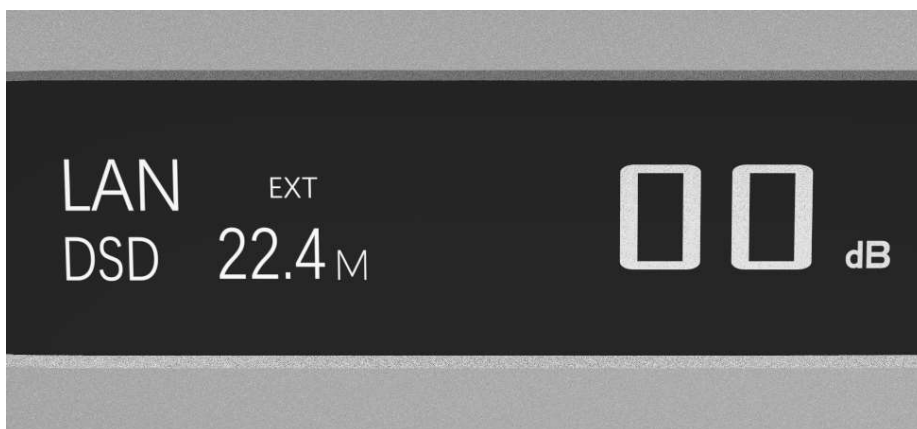
4) REF CLOCK

Built in clock is generated by Gustard-K2, a low noise clock synthesizer. With ultra-low phase noise, the synthesized clock has ultra-low jitter in femtosecond level and can directly provide the near-end performance of the reference clock. Thanks to the high-precision divider, the frequency accuracy of its synthesized audio clock reaches ppb level.

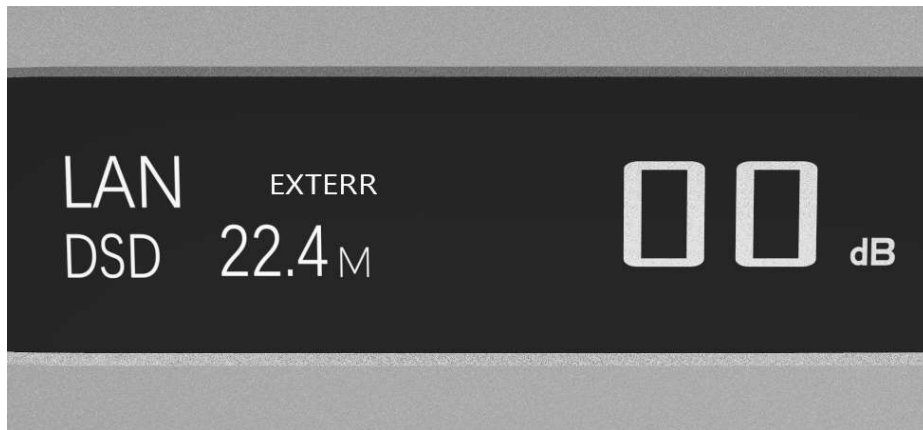
INT.: Built-in clock with jitter in femtosecond level.

EXT.: 10Mhz external clock (Gustard C16&C18)

When the external clock is working correctly, the word "EXT" will be displayed.



When the external clock is lost or drifts over ± 150 ppm, the word "EXTERR" will be displayed.



5) **Sound**

Different sound quality mode provided by AKM.

6) **ATTENUATOR**

A -24dB built-in analog attenuator, provide lower loss in dynamic range.

Auto Use the attenuator when volume is lower than -24dB. -Default

Off Only use digital attenuation.

On Force turing the attenuator on.

7) **PHASE**

NON-inverted: RCA non-inverted phase

XLR 1-Ground 2-Hot 3-Cold

Inverted: RCA inverted phase

XLR 1-Ground 2-Cold 3-Hot

8) **BRIGHTNESS**

Dark

Moderate

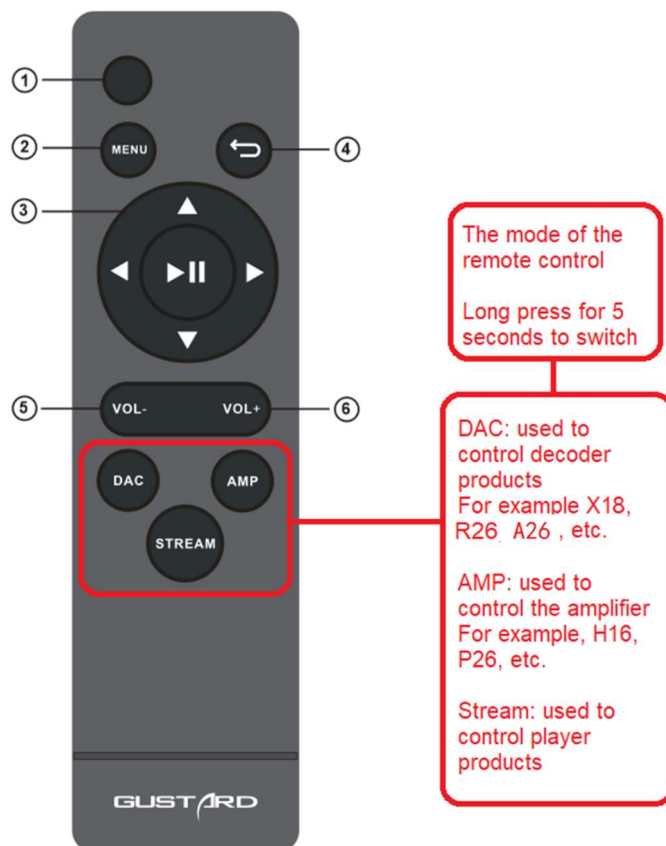
Bright

Auto off

Screen Saver -enter dark mode automatically.

*avoid using bright mode for long-term to protect the screen.

Remote



* Enter DAC mode by long - pressing the DAC key 3 s.

① **Standby:** switch between standby and working.

② **Menu:** enter menu.

③ **Pad with 4 direction keys:**

In menu page, use up/down to choose the option, left/right to change the value, central key to save and exit.

In main page, click central key to mute/unmute.

④ **Back:** Back to the main page.

⑤ **Vol-:** On menu page, decrease the volume.

⑥ **Vol+:** On menu page, increase the volume.

Note: ●Pay attention to distance and angle. ●If there is an obstacle in front, the remote controller may not work. ●If you don't use the remote control for more than a month, please remove the battery. ●If the battery leaks, thoroughly clean the battery case and replace it with a new one. ●The remote controller may not work properly on other devices.

Specifications

Input

COAX/AES/OPT: PCM 16-24bit/44.1-192KHz;
DSD DOP64

USB: PCM 16-32bit/44.1-768KHz;
DSD DoP64-DOP256;
NATIVE DSD DSD64-DSD512
OS support: Windows 7~11 32/64bit, macOS, Linux

IIS: PCM 16-32bit/44.1-768KHz;
DSD DOP64-DOP256;
NATIVE DSD DSD64-DSD512

10M Clock in: 50 Ohm BNC, 0dBm-20dBm
square wave 0.2V-3.3V, sinewave 0.5-3.3V。

Output

Frequency Response: 20-20kHz /+ -0.2dB Sharp Roll-off

Dynamic range: >127dB

Signal-to-noise ratio: >126dB

Crosstalk: -139dB @ 1kHz

THD+N: <=0.0001% @1kHz

IMD: ≈0.001% @ -1dbfs

RCA: 2.5Vrms (VOLUME FIXED) 100Ω

XLR: 5.0Vrms (VOLUME FIXED) 100Ω

Others

Power Supply: AC 115V/230V 50/60Hz

Power Consumption<30W

Size: 330mm (Width) * 260mm (Length) * 65mm (Height) (protrusion not included)

Packing size: 420mm (Width) * 360mm (Length) * 175mm (Height);

Weight: 7Kg (with package)

Product Warranty

You will enjoy the 2-year free warranty and lifetime maintenance after the date purchasing GUSTARD' s U18 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 A26 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.