

FURUTECH

What HiFi (UK) – ADL GT40 Review

June 2011

Furutech ADL GT40 | DAC/phono stage | £395

Impressive sound from this tiny box of tricks

This clever little box of tricks from high-end accessory specialist Furutech is a 24Bit/96kHz DAC with headphone amplifier, moving coil and magnet phono stage. You can also use it to digitise vinyl for recording on a computer or as a rather oddly configured preamp in a hi-fi system.

Master of all trades

It's a real Swiss Army knife of a product – and it performs admirably.

The on-board DAC is excellent. We got great results with both a WAV file of Regina Spekter's recently released *Live in London*

set and a 24bit/88.2 kHz recording of Maev O'Boyle's *All My Sins*. There's plenty of detail, excellent definition of leading edges and a good dose of refinement. The GT40's presentation errs on the polite side of ideal, but there's still enough energy to keep us happy. If this unit were judged solely on DAC performance it does enough for a five-star verdict. But it's way more than that...

The headphone amp is equally good. This unit had no trouble driving a wide range of cans and delivered plenty of refinement. Add it up and it makes for great long-term listening experience.

USE IT WITH Grado SR80i Headphones

The SR80i's leak like nobody's business, but their sweet, open sound works brilliantly with the Furutech



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Is it a DAC, a headphone amp, a phono stage or a preamp? All of those – and it's great, too



Also consider

Leema Elements phono stage
£500 ★★★★★



If vinyl performance is paramount this Leema's superior sound is worth paying for. It doesn't have the GT40's range of abilities, though