

The new DAC M2Tech Young mkIII. Streams, Oled ... review

Absolutely new from Italy, the new Young DAC mkIII with streams (via Bluetooth), to this fully balanced design (perfectly fit our editorial studio EISO monitors), with an analog input ... and thus also a simple digital-analog preamplifier. I checked how to play with a turntable via classic 1020 & 5120, he basked solidly with digital sources ... computer (mac / ROON), Chromecast and compact (over 515). Direct sinus streams, the sign of the times, is an increasingly common view, regardless of the classification of the device. It can be budgeted HiFi, it can be and high-end. No difference.

In Young's case it is originally. First of all, as I mentioned, this is a fully balanced structure (not pseudo, like many other lugs that have XLRs just to possibly use a "thick" cable ... and in truth they are SE constructions), you can also connect via RCA (beautiful adapters included in the set), but if someone designed it this way, check it out well on the symmetrical track "what is it with". Secondly, the extensive menu is new to the Italians, something that reminds me of the Matrixes (where you can set many parameters of the DAC work). There are filters for PCM, they are for DSD (up to 4!). Thirdly, we have a line input, which automatically allows you to connect the turntable in the track via the new Young, and this can bring specific benefits in SQ (digitally controlled resistor ladder, very precise level control). The encoder was used (even every 0.5dB, it can be changed in the margin on the 1dB setting ... useful!), The system pilot (the M2Tech electronics grows bigger, oh grows), and as if this is not a DEDICATED Android application (see screenshots) to control the transducer (? ... a streamer, preamplifier ... what name would be adequate? Well what?) ... in other words, full option when it comes to service, also remote.

It is small, cute, I was immediately taken in by something that, fourthly, distinguishes this klamot from the others - there are no signs, no names, badges, anything on the front ... only a black tile, which conceals an OLED display. Cool! Discretion here is a clear choice, it is indicated by the extensive settings options (diode operation, display response with the possibility of its quick extinguishing, the way of awakening / readiness of the clapper to work). In other words, you have something that can, after proper configuration, not shine, do not shout, "I am here, here!", Just a black front with an aluminum, thick flap on the top and sides. It suits me very well and I think that many people will like this design too. They did it exactly as it should and aesthetics, design (well, we know Italians) is here at a very high level. On the back we have great quality connectors, the equipment does not heat at all, and does not heat up at all, because we have power outside. Included is a wall power supply (made to order m2Tech), you can opt for an upgrade in the form of a company power plant (Van Der Graaf mkII), or some other solution available on the market. The remote control, as I mentioned, is systemic, not one of the basket, just specially made by the producer, also aesthetically plus (stylized @ Art déco ;-)) and is a great convenience when we decide to take full advantage of the possibilities what the title device offers, that is, we will hook many sources and, additionally, we will want to use sinus streams with aptX support.

As I mentioned, I integrated the klamot with the nEar 05 near field monitors, symmetrically connecting, configuring the speakers in such a way as to maximize the possibility of adjustment on the Young's side. That's how it sounded first of all, but not only because these beautiful adapters ... well, it would be a pity not to use them, I also prepared something special - I connected M2Tech to the track asymmetrically with the MiniWatt amplifier as a tip, meaning the lamps were also. And not coincidentally, because in the menu there is also an option to set the DAC output with two settings (5Vrms and 10Vrms), so you will be able to connect the bubble end, because it is also possible to use this option. Well, great, no! As you can see, we have a lot of possibilities here. He also played on passive column sets, being the basis of the track (both as a pre and DAC, and still a streaming via BT). The foundation here are two dice ... programmable Xilinx FPGA (yes, it will be possible to update the transmitter in the USB input range), read the USB controller and the PCM1795 C / A chip (with native DSD support). This duo is supplemented by a scalak responsible

for the work of the encoder (regulation) CS3318. Even 32 bits, even 384KHz, even DSD256 (via ASIO), even ... ekhmmm ... MQA (natively). Set.

At the end of the review, in the gallery, you can see how much the tested novelty from M2Tech has to offer, how many possibilities we get in the device, which we nominally consider as DAC, and yet ... well, we get something much more functionally extended. A sign of my times, dear. Today, these omnibuses allow you to build a system without having to multiply beings, because we integrate many things into one. Good!

Before discussing the sound of the new Young, two little things - it's primarily a DAC, yes, but in the era of the huge popularity of headphones and standard equipment such jackets in jack, it's a pity that the manufacturer of this item poskapił. It would be completely, especially since here it is really above-standard and original in terms of configurability of work (mentioned potentiometer work settings, settings for outputs, multiple filters) and the ability to work as a simple analog preamplifier (line input) with the possible integration of an analogue sound source. Really nothing more from the side to plug in (sources) today we do not need, for this sinozing streams ... until you ask for a direct output on the headphone effector. What's more, this stick can play @ symmetrical and asymmetric track, no difference, and its skills in switching between multiple sources and matching (as above) work well in the stationary track and only those headphones are missing. The pilot and the app give us the full convenience of using the couch (speakers rather), but this compact box is also a solution for the desk, and there I can see small columns (such as studio pedigree) (and here it will be very ok), or ear muffs. It is the first and the second thing that Italians must pay attention to suppliers to provide subassemblies with better ... durability. There were problems with EVO, and also Young. Material and component control. The form, metal, OLED, individual elements, finish are here at a high level, but ... it breaks down. Also advertise in Chinese factories (there is no mistake here, parts are flying from China to the bank), let them translate and improve, because here the first impression is: much better than the average. Design, material, etc. Also "controlling" ...

Okay, time to discuss SQ:

A handful of thoughts before the main course

This electronics finds a special place in my heart. This is not accidental playing, or playing differently, or cheaper is clearly heard (I drink here for the sensational, cheap as borscht converts digit-figure hiFace and orange dongle, read DAC ... all this serves me faithfully for years and evil I will not say a word, I will not! Links to the tests you will find in the list of equipment tested / used in the editorial at the end of the review), there is a patent for a great sound and there is no place for a profession. I was listening to everything, I also tested a lot and never, never, never did this M2Tech ever fail me. Also, testing Younga, I knew more or less what I could expect, the interest in the new possibilities (because BT, because filters ... quite a lot of configuration options) and a specific question: whether this Young can be the basis of the track for 20-30 thousand, central for such a track, or maybe it can be better in a similar budget, or similarly (SQ) much cheaper. The version of mk III costs a lot, because 6,000, and this is a small converter (although, as mentioned, with extensive options) the sum is quite large. It is known today that competition is deadly in this segment, and the Middle Kingdom, or rather the companies from the Middle Kingdom, have been showing how to apply price dumping in practice for a few years, but this is not at the expense of quality (product) or service (something I know about it recently I have a lot of android all-in-one coders, they introduce corrections even on New Year's Eve:)), nor ... there is nothing to attach to. In general, currently Asia (Korea!) Is an audio championship in all its glory. They do it well, they do it reliably, in terms of cost-effect they can be unrivaled. That's how it looks. Well, maybe there is no room for European or American brands, for audio from the Old World? Easy as for the war, there is, there is still room. Because in some (and this is the key just) the products can be seen that it was

designed by Italy, in some you can see that someone did it in their own way (and not that we have another clone, tracing paper, even perfect quality, but tracing paper). Still today, and when we crumble, tomorrow you can read the announcement of the Liberty-tested Myteka, and this related case of the present article shows, just like Young, what it is. Yes, it will be more expensive, it will be not so cheap, there is no doubt about it, although producers from Europe or America (also those who only design) try to go down and it shows, because in catalogs every now and then appear affordable, cheaper devices are ... there is still and probably will be a price difference for the product made in EU or USA, and manufactured and designed in China offered for less. Using the Italian converter, mounting the beautiful adapters on the back, supporting it from the company's remote control I had no doubt that it something from the Old Continent that I use something designed in beautiful Tuscany, hot Sicily, the mountains of Piedmont. Here, it is proud on the cover: MADE IN ITALY. For someone for whom these are irrelevant things, such a product will be too expensive, too expensive for the facilities offered by Asians with similar functionality, similar purpose, similarly equipped and similarly, carefully, made (subject to the above). But, this is something that is a distinctive feature, something that we are for, or we are not able to pay extra. It is fair, of course, provided that these locational features of klamot are available, actually occurring when Fabio is responsible for the project, not the office of the great Czebol, an Asian aggregate of finished audio, audio / video constructions ... Yes, my dear, there are Asian whole offices that sell hundreds, if not thousands, of ready-made matrices with all the know-how, software, even the support provided in the set. Actually, all you need to do is give your logo. It will also be designed for you, if necessary. M2Tech, or Mytek mentioned, are people who do their own, design, combine, create and pay for it. And they do it on site. As I mentioned, I think it is a fair, healthy approach to the subject. Therefore, in my humble opinion, there is not only a place for such producers, but also their lack, withdrawal from the market would be unfavorable for the whole industry. There is a place for them, and there are those who want to pay more, because it appeals to them all, which I mentioned above, do not want another, even the most perfect clone, or the product of the most original but aesthetically pleasing design in Asia, and concretizing for our audiobook an idea for a system from the East.

I love M2Tech, because SQ tip, top ... as always

There was no surprise. Importantly, this electronics sounds good when removed from the box, and not that you know - 200 hours at least - and it will be fine. This is different here, and recently I was a bit concerned: maybe the process of heating up is ALL KNOW the process of adapting our ears to how it gives itself, does it not manage the lapels, and to a lesser extent the lapping of the device itself? You know, psychoacoustics will not overcome, and how it has just this, and not another dimension - after a few deeper ... maybe I will not be that far, maybe just sum it up like this: if something plays well from the box, it simply sounds good. Just. And testifies to the competences of people responded to a given project. There is something in it, you admit, there are things that "crush" for good morning and we already know that we've come across something special. Yes, I mean Sundara, which will soon get the right text on HDO, is such a product. I collected my jaw the first day and still have to look for it under the desk. ARE TOO. Just.

Young showed up immediately on the positive side, because he played so that he could freely compete with any DAKK to 10,000, except for the top Matrix in version v.2 ... this creates a separate category in which he is alone. This is the first, secondly I have never heard (yes, ZOOM is not such a good pre, unfortunately) of my active n'aras with such a runaway, so spontaneously responsive to what is happening in the piece being played. A sublime matter! Active columns and this klamot. All sources (BT can be supplemented with something hi-reso, or at least lossless like i.e. Chromecast or AirPortem / ATV) integrated with Young and already. The comp in the form of residual (microRendu), ROON and the whole system have a digital one, and still somewhere on the table let the turntable (the new ones have built-in btw preamplifiers) and ... would be almost full

(because the headphones ;-)). Also, if someone wants (I support) based on active, not passive loudspeakers, build the system, and the full integration of everything in the speakers (KEFy Wirelessy) does not taste it ... it is one of the strong propositions. The volume control in the device is carried out by a digitally controlled resistor ladder, it is extremely precise, you can even 0.5 dB, and in the case of these speakers this adjustment worked well. I was able to finally fully control the level, which in the case of the said ZOOM was not possible (insufficient range, lack of precision), additionally balanced output in M2Tech clearly liked the symmetrical (and only) construction of nEar. It sounded great and such a minimalist project: DAC / pre with active is a ready idea for a complete system.

With a turntable, an analog source, like this. the track was cracking too much. However, this is not in terms of a flaw, but the advantages ... my old-school gramophone record has its limitations, I know about it, with something on a different quality level we would have what we need (a great, precise analog input). I also had some doubts about some of the boards, but ... Younga has Phase polarity. Reverse-phase discs are a distortion of the soundstage and blur of the apparent sources, and here you just have to go to the menu and it's ready. Also another point. Playing with the disc (also compact on the track with passive speakers, i.e. NAD C315) I had a clean, precise, very transparent source for the signal, I had the Young mkIII described and I had no doubt that this element is primarily responsible for sound quality, is key . This was confirmed by tests with a headphone amplifier plugged into the M2Tech analog outputs (my reliable M1HPA played this role). Yes, it's a great, transparent device, well differentiating (and here's the BT note, because sometimes it played poorly, I will mention the cap below) material, such a precise camera ... just like the EVO 2 new set tested some time ago (DAC + separate clock).

Just as the extremely successful combination of active near field monitors, similarly positive feelings accompanied me after connecting via beautiful (yes, I know, I repeat myself, but what can I do, how nice and I can not fail to mention) MiniWatta adapters. This little snack on Brimar NOS, he was supposed to do for the bubble tip. Thanks to the adjustment of the outputs (the output voltage is changed in two steps by 5 / 10Vrms) I was able to set the lamp precisely (also by adjusting every 0.5 bale) and again the turntable played and I was able to delight. The lamp came with warming (not that Young is cold, because it is essentially neutral in terms of outlook ;-)), it began to glue, burn, and pull. Little dynamics broke down in Young, but I also had this honey, the sound got - I like this non-verbal formulation - offensive. So in the winter evenings, at mulled wine, I listened to late, and all this on basic Topazs. These loudspeakers are simply made for such a game, just like the 20's (floor-tiles) so much that the latter is in the macro scale, and these monitors are more intimate, more intimate, in a more focused way. It sounded so good that I forgot about the number.

But I remembered playing via ROON, there were no reasons to complain. USB knows M2Tech like few people, and knows how few people, because alone (not from a ready) designed solutions for this interface (an ugly word) to their DACs, converters ... they know how a computer should play and this computer plays. There were no comments in the notebook, and the same positives, very differentiated Young, among others DSD and PCM. It was heard how different the patent is on how to interpret the recording. Exactly. I do not think that DSD is better, I think it is different. Some aspects of 1 bit play are unique, we know what I wrote about it many times. There are also such things that are clearly better in the PCM material, with dynamics in the first place. And this is clearly audible, according to I am not a matter of a particular recording, a better, inferior quality of the material itself, or its recording, how it was handled in the recording studio ... it's just two different worlds, without the possibility of indicating a winner, because there is simply no such. I used to be very fascinated by SACD and I still collect discs, I still like to listen to 1 bit files, but it's not instead, it's just next. And it's not absolutely about 99% of music (mhm, I think there's no mistake here) it's PCM. It is not that only some species are represented in the case of DSD, and some things are gone, there have never been. No. This is how I mentioned it differently. By the way,

the fact that for many years (when Sony imagined it would be the successor of the CDA) mainly jazz and classics tells a lot about what DSD is, why it is a parallel and specific way of recording music, certainly not universal. With this universality I do not drink at all the defeat of the format (SACD), the market failure, and the characteristics, what this format is in practice and what (preferably) it serves. On the margins of these agonies, check how difficult (a few threads on ROON labs forums) find a multichannel DAC, a real, good quality multichannel GATHERING FROM FILES. It's almost mission impossible, people combine with blackberries, create their computer audio sources with unusual interfaces ... From Roon 1.3 you can play in mch (as they usually gave a refined module, it works great in the margins), but what to play (hware)? That is the question! And you'll agree with me that something that was originally designed for multi-channel (DSD) playback, in stereo is - just - handicapped compared to the intentions. This is also it: different. Not stereo, no. Multichannel. Multi.

MQA ... I wrote about this phenomenon sharply and critically. I have not changed my opinion. There are still a few things that are very uninteresting, related to this phenomenon, but I am not here to write about my thoughts (why repeat, besides, we write about Young, not about MQA itself), I am also hurrying to report that she is playing and beating. It identifies, the full authorization does and the origami audio we play. It's positive about what works, and now something else that works differently, sometimes so. So, Bluetooth will be at the end. Range. Here is saying gently, not the best. Gently. Suffice it to say that even in the same room there were drums (such as plus or minus 5 meters without obstacles), and outside it was nice. The reason seems prosaic and is actually visible at the first sight ... of the eye. Do you see an antenna somewhere? No? Exactly. Antenka is not there, because M2Tech decided to give us a clean form and he did it perfectly (right behind). There is no logo, no markings, you can turn off all diodes, black ino only, zero LEDs, trinkets and ... antennas. Also zero. For me, cymes, because for me every modern audio with a forest of antennas is dissonance, to aesthetic suffering ... what a router is there. You have it too? I have and even Polaris, after a while, deprived me of two good masts, connecting twisted pair. Of course, it was about the certainty of the transfer, about smooth playing in the stream, but ... also for aesthetic reasons it was spreading here. Also, Italians, aesthetes, gave you something that has undisturbed harmony, a pure form, but the losses are. BT works just fine. It was better than in the case of handhelds with a computer (mobile), which is probably caused by a slightly larger antenna built into the laptop (from this one, the smartphone on the smartphone). Look again at the thick, deliciously lumpy thick piece of aluminum covering the sides and top of the device. There is no option for these waves to conduct well, there is an element in the back that passes those zeros, ones from the module, but effectively shielded (the pad extends beyond the outline of the housing) and inconveniently placed (inconvenient for the waves, because from design point of view it is ... bingo ! ;-)).

Also, let's take this as a supplement, such an auxiliary link, which sometimes gives us the opportunity to listen to the playlist suggestions from Spotify, read the stream from the station (recently there is so much good in these online radio stations that I will make a separate article on this topic ... some streams are overexcited, and more and more often it is very, very, very good) and there. The computer will be tolerable (also aptX, as I mentioned, the codec definitely guarantees better transfer parameters, lower delays from SBC, but there is of course a panacea for 64 / 128kbps stream ... let's avoid this, though, no sense), with the handheld less, except this stand next to the phone in your hand so that it does not break ... ready picture for the Czech comedy, does not it?

This time at the end the specification flies ...

Inputs:

- single-ended analogue (RCA)
- SPDIF (RCA)

AESEBU (XLR)
Optical (Toslink)
USB 2.0 high speed
Wireless (Bluetooth)

outputs:

balanced analogue (XLR) adaptable on SE (adapters)
trigger (3.5mm jack)

Sampling frequencies:

PCM 44.1kHz to 384kHz
DoP 64X to 128X
Native DSD 64x up to 256x

PCM frequencies:

16 bit to 32 bit

Signal-to-noise distance:

118dBA (single-ended)
120dBA (balanced)

THD + N:

0.0008% @ 5Vrms out balanced

Output voltage:

2.5Vrms or 5Vrms (single-ended)
5Vrms or 10Vrms (balanced)
12VDC (trigger)

Output impedance:

100 Ohms (single-ended)
200 Ohms (balanced)

Input impedance:

47 kOhms (analog)
75 Ohms (SPDIF)
110 Ohms (AESEBU)

Other data:

Supply voltage 15VDC
Power consumption 4W (operation), 0.23W (standby)
Dimensions: 200x200x50mm (wxdxh)
Weight: 2kg

Well, it's time to sum it up

Yes, I know, I like this brand. This probably has an effect on how I perceive M2Tech products. Probably so. Does this, however, have any meaning in the case of the final assessment? Well, I am sure that if you listen to this lap, even so out of the box just pulled out of the delivery, even as the DAC itself will be (and will be) icy winter (does not heat btw - this thick alu flake probably drains well) you will admit: there is something in it. Another one that proves its worth, for those who are willing to pay more for the European style, for the original, own solutions (the manufacturer), and not a ready-made project from the metro cut. For many, this DAC may be a closure of the search for a multifunctional preamp, mainly digital, but also ready for connecting these few (single) analog sources. I appreciate them for not going easy, that they are not doing something that pretends to be what they used to be. They keep level. In the case of BT it is worth to engineers to consider in future projects how to bite. If they manage to make an invisible arrangement of the module, what radiates is that I will prostrate. Next stylishly, still in the original, then in my own way, with an Italian soul. It is visible, you can hear it.

PS. MQA undoubtedly has some, countable, or countable marketing potential. This is also a plus, despite the negative opinion about the phenomenon.

D/A Converter and pre/BTstreamer M2Tech Young MKIII available for PLN 6200

Pros

- beautiful, complete, engaging sound, clean, precise, differentiating sound
- he can do it right out of the box, this type has it and it also tells us something about competences
- Italian work, in the sense of this design, simple, noble form, flavors (adapters, aluminum plate, black sheet without anything on the front, as we wish)
- your pilot, the twenties, thirties ... but they can do it
- first-class materials
- rich functionality
- extremely configurable
- potentiometer-encoder gives advice (also in tandem with the mentioned pilot)
- this is what the app gives you to control (under Android, there is finally something for Andka exclusively, and there is no iOS ... writing this critical apple ;-))

Cons

- primacy "looks" over "works" painfully felt in the case of Bluetooth (see text)
- look after sub-suppliers (see text)
- if it was still jacek ... I was a little dazed