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HIGHLY COMMENDED
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HiFi Rose RS130

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NETWORK STREAMER

The Korean HiFi Rose RS130 is an innovative streaming transport that enhances audio playback quality by separating the streaming front-end from the decoding process. Of course, no one will notice this as they are inevitably drawn by the striking 15.4" LCD display covering the whole front panel of the Android based server. However, separating the streamer from the decoder allows users to select an interface tailored to their preferences. The RS130 features impressive hardware, including a unique SFP-type network connection that minimses data errors and USB over fiber for direct attachments. It buffers signals through an internal 256GB drive and employs a high-precision OCXO 10MHz clock for maintaining sync. Outputs include optical, coaxial, AES/EBU, and USB, catering to high-resolution audio formats.

Enhanced coherence

This model excels in audio performance, presenting music with enhanced coherence and revealing previously unnoticed details across various recordings. Testing the RS130 with high-quality digital devices demonstrated its ability to provide a cleaner, more organised sound. "This effect is vaguely akin to an audio decongestant," said Ed Selley in his review. He added that, "across a significant material selection, it allows specific passages of music you had long thought to be bandwidth-limited to reveal elements of their content you weren't necessarily sure were present." He concluded the review by saying the RS130 is, "a seriously impressive network front end that will drop into a wide selection of systems and delight with all of them."

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