



# Linn Klimax DSM

LINN'S FLAGSHIP NETWORK PLAYER HAS MORE TO IT THAN MEETS THE EYE: DESPITE CLEAN AND SIMPLE LINES, THIS IS A HIGHLY FLEXIBLE DEVICE WITH BOTH AV AND MULTIRoom POTENTIAL, PLUS AN IN-HOUSE-DESIGNED DIGITAL CONVERSION SOLUTION

**Late last year, and with something of a fanfare, Linn launched its latest streamer/DAC, a completely re-engineered design on which it seemed no expense had been spared. In its most comprehensive specification, the Klimax DSM is priced at £30,000 in the UK, and when you heft its 16.4kg mass and run your hands over the controls and finish, the high build quality is easily appreciated. What's more, while it has the capacity to service audio-visual installations via numerous connections, effort has been invested to maximise the quality of the stereo audio output.**

Like a chameleon, the Klimax DSM comes in several guises: there's even a half price version without digital-to-analogue conversion, providing digital interfacing to suitable active loudspeakers and remote players, in addition to the panoply of AV resources and remote listening stations.

Nearly 5 years ago we assessed Linn's previous streamer, the Klimax DS Katalyst in 2017 (HIFICRITIC Vol 11, No3), at the time the company's reference level design at £15,000. The new model has been extensively revised and has put on a lot of weight in both senses of the word: it's twice as heavy, and twice the price, too.

This Organik version, named for the new in-house DAC technology it uses, has truly excellent fit and finish, with handsome top surface milling picking out the circular grooving on the alloy top plate, then leading the eye to the crystal clear multifunction rotary control. This covers facilities including mode selection and volume, the latter being displayed in the semi-transparent smoked mirror glass display window filling the entire front panel, while further

functions may be accessed via user-assignable controls in the form of a thin strip of six stainless-steel bars at the front edge of the top-plate. The whole unit sits on three well-crafted, chrome trimmed anti-vibration feet and, as well as the black finish of the review sample an all-silver version is also available.

Features of the Klimax DSM include Linn's Space Optimisation, which is forward computation compensation for acoustic correction based on entering a measured description of your room dimensions, and the Exact room-correction system, which also covers Linn digital active loudspeakers, correcting frequency and phase response. (We covered the Klimax Exakt 350 digital active loudspeaker back in 2014, in Vol8 No2)

On the 'fully loaded' sample of the Klimax DSM supplied for review, the upper section of the rear panel has three analogue inputs: two sets of gold-plated RCAs and an XLR pair for balanced sources. At the centre is a ground terminal, to the right of which sit the right and left analogue outputs, again on RCAs and XLRs.