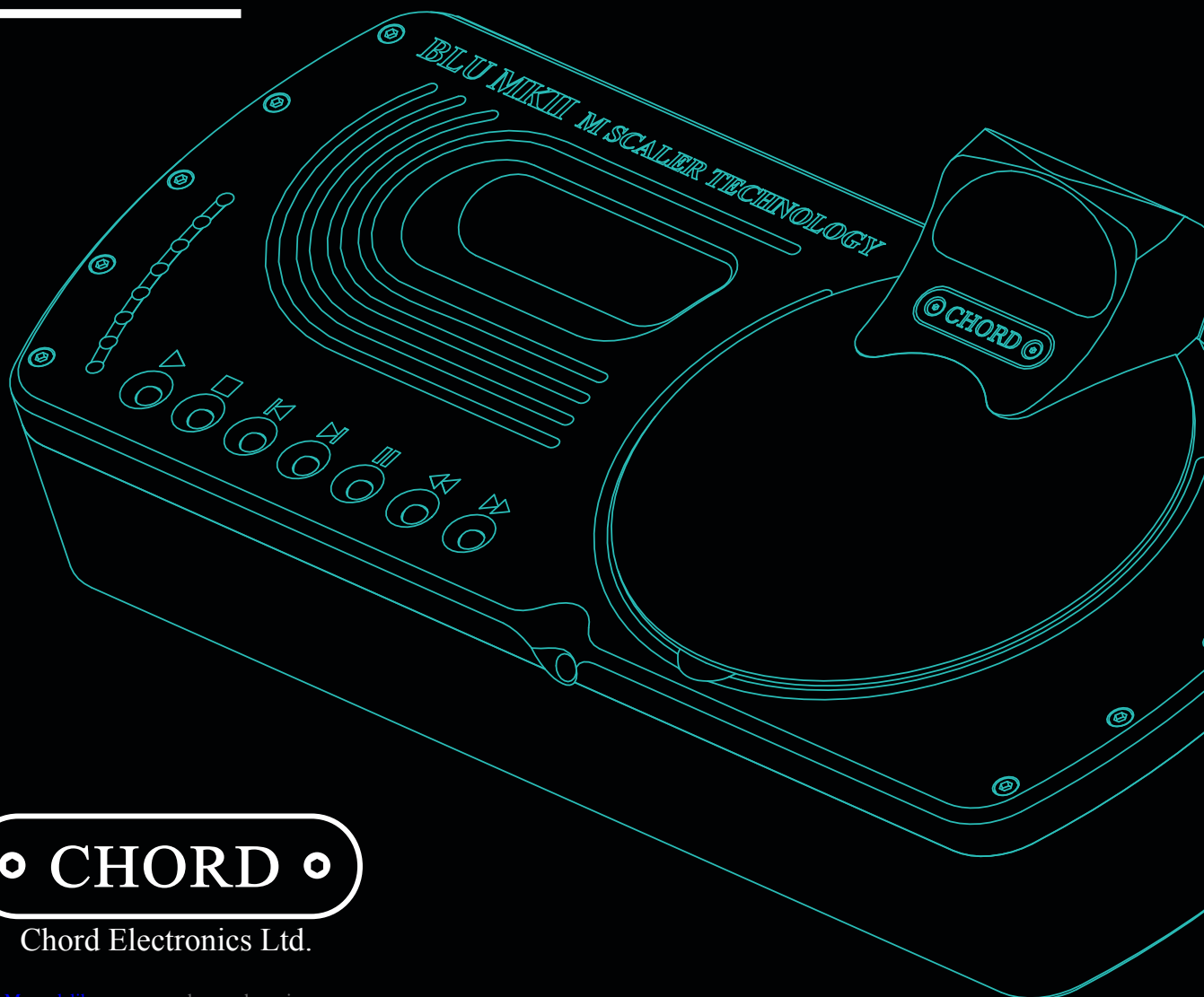

User Manual

BLU MKII

Blu MKII

Upscaling digital/CD
transport



• CHORD •

Chord Electronics Ltd.

01 Getting started with BLU MKII

The BLU MKII is a highly advanced hand-made digital/CD transport, precision engineered to the highest standards. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the various features of the device to ensure you get to enjoy the full range of performance



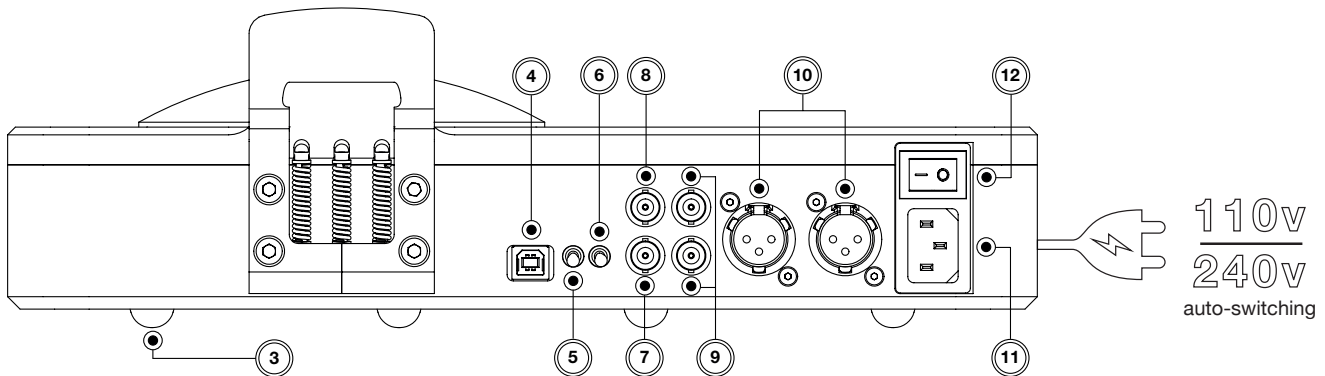
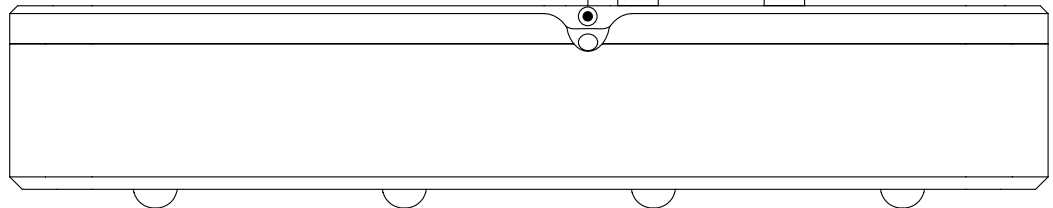
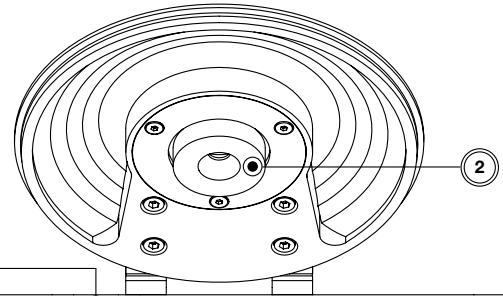
To open the CD lid, locate the knuckle at the rear and gently lever the sprung mechanism in a fluid downward motion (never apply force). Gently use the knuckle to lever the lid to close



For optimal performance, do not cover the infrared receiver (1) or place BLU MKII within cabinets or enclosures

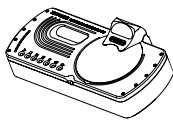


BLU MKII may get warm. To avoid overheating please keep the device in a well ventilated environment. We recommend using our dedicated Choral Ensemble equipment support.



110v
240v
auto-switching

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| ① Infrared receiver | ② Magnetised CD puck | ③ Non-slip rubber feet |
| ④ USB Type-B input | ⑤ Sample rate switch | ⑥ Dither selection switch |
| ⑦ BNC output | ⑧ BNC input | ⑨ Dual data BNC output |
| ⑩ Dual data AES output | ⑪ Mains IEC input | ⑫ On/off rocker switch |



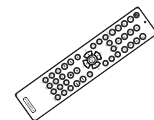
BLU MKII



1m USB Type-B cable



Mains IEC cable



Infrared remote control

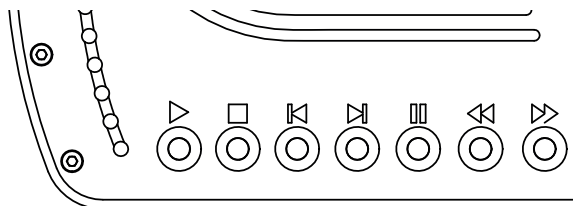
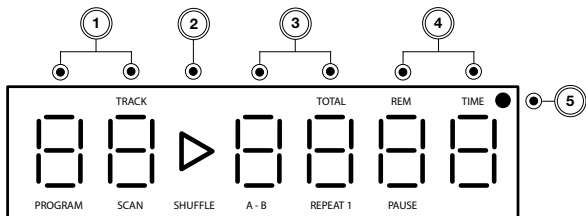
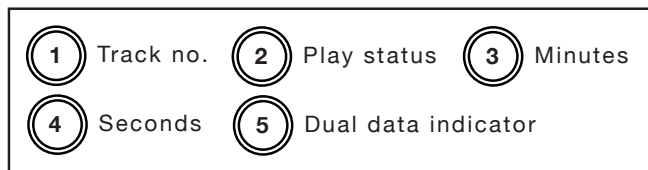
Inventory



CAUTION!

THIS PRODUCT EMPLOYS A LASER THAT EMITS BOTH VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE RADIATION. REMOVAL OF THE TOP COVER OR TAMPERING WITH THE CLOSURE MECHANISM OR ANY OF THE ENCLOSED ELECTRONICS, MAY RESULT IN EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS LEVELS OF LASER RADIATION THAT COULD CAUSE EYE AND SKIN DAMAGE. TO PREVENT INJURY IN THE EVENT OF MALFUNCTION, THIS PRODUCT SHOULD BE RETURNED TO YOUR ORIGINAL DEALER FOR A QUALIFIED SERVICE. THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE COMPONENTS WITHIN BLU MKII

02 Display and basic operation



For your convenience, all basic CD functions can be accessed from the top panel. They can also be accessed from the included remote control (see below)

03 Getting to know the remote control

We have included a comprehensive infrared remote control that allows you to access additional features that cannot be accessed via the top panel, such as shuffle, repeat, time modes etc. Additionally, the remote has the added benefit of being able to natively control DAVE and other Chord Electronics' separates.



BLU MK II CONTROL BUTTONS

- Standby** - This will allow the unit to enter a power-saving standby mode. It will also wake the unit up to full operation from Standby mode
- Numerical buttons** - These select playback track. Follow with 'OK'
- Shuffle** - Tracks will playback in a random order until all have been cycled once
- Time** - By default, the time elapsed will appear on the display. To cycle between time elapsed, total time and time remaining, continue pressing the 'TIME' button until desired display is shown
- Repeat** - This function allows you to repeat a whole album or a single track. Pressing 'REP' once will display 'REPEAT' on the display and will repeat the whole album. Pressing 'REP' a second time will display 'REPEAT 1' on the display and repeat the current track. Pressing 'REP' a third time will cancel all programmed repeats



Plays the track



Pauses the track



Stops all playback



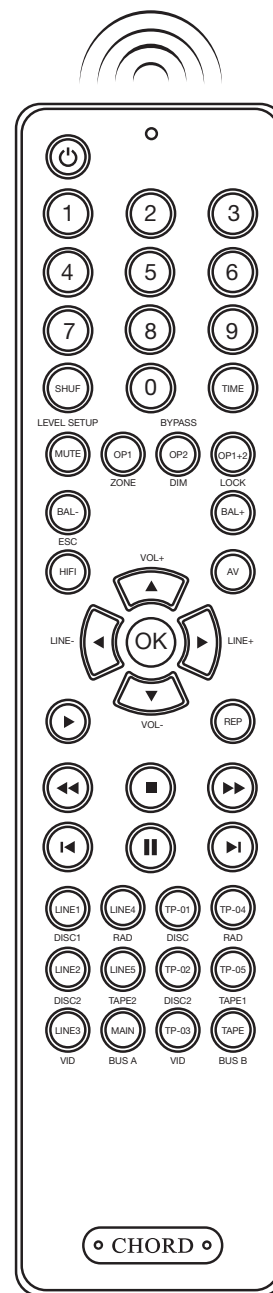
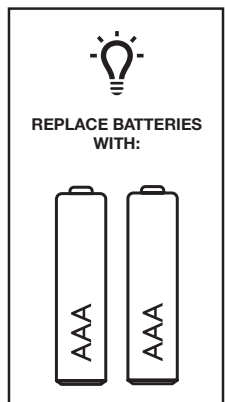
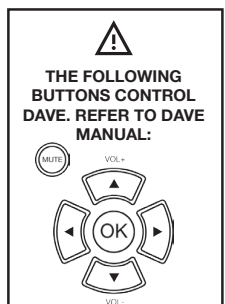
Fast-forward/rewind



Skips a track



IR RECEIVER

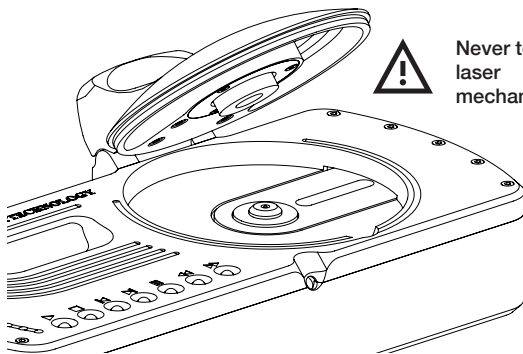


IF BLU MK II DOES NOT RESPOND TO REMOTE CONTROL INPUT, PLEASE REPLACE THE BATTERIES. ONLY USE BATTERIES OF THE SAME TYPE. DO NOT MIX OLD AND NEW CELLS

04 CD playback, input options and specifications

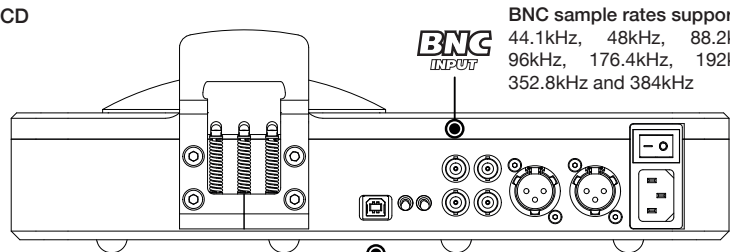
The BLU MKII uses the legendary Philips CD Pro 2 mechanism for high-quality tracking and data recovery. Combined with Robert Watts' latest M-SCALER technology, BLU MKII benefits from 1,015,808 taps* and can extract 16x the resolution of a conventional 44.1kHz compact disc.

*The technical indicator of how complex the interpolation filter is



M-SCALER TECHNOLOGY

When BLU MKII is connected to DAVE's dual-data input, its USB input can take advantage of the built-in M-SCALER technology to 'upscale' the input data and exploit the 1,015,808 digital taps



BNC sample rates supported:
44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz and 384kHz



USB sample rates supported:
44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz, 384kHz, 705.6kHz and 768kHz

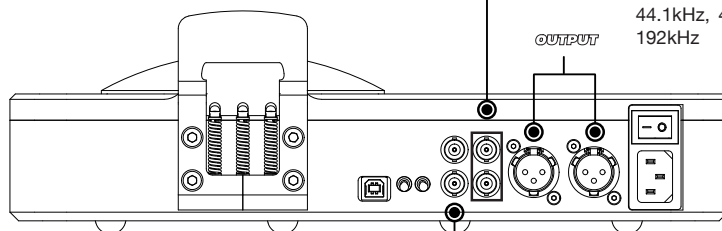


INPUT PRIORITY !	ALWAYS PRIORITISED	"	PRIORITISED WHEN NO CD INPUT	#	PRIORITISED WHEN NO CD OR USB INPUT
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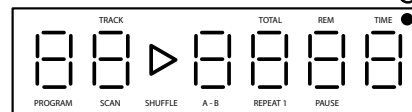
05 Output options and specifications

BLU MK II can output up to a 384kHz data stream using its single BNC output, a total of 192kHz via the dual AES outputs, or 768kHz by using the dual BNC outputs. You can pair Blu MK II with any DAC that accepts a 384kHz BNC input, but we recommend pairing BLU MKII with a Chord Electronics DAC such as DAVE or Hugo 2, to accept the full 768kHz signal.

Dual data BNC output sample rates supported:
44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz, 384kHz, 705.6kHz and 768kHz



Dual data AES output sample rates supported:
44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz and 192kHz



BNC output sample rates supported:
44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz and 384kHz



DUAL DATA MODE ! You must connect both BNCs or AES to the recipient DAC. Failure to do so will result in distorted sound

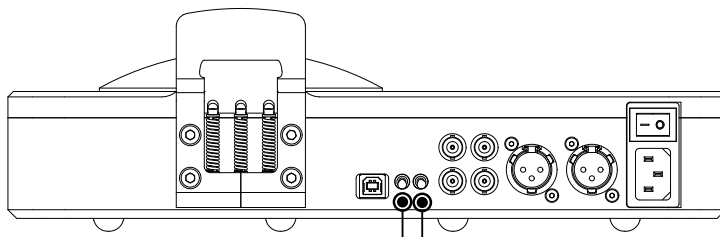
When BLU MKII is in operation, all outputs are active. You can connect BLU MKII to multiple devices, however, it is recommended that only one is connected. When switched off, some DACs can short out the connection creating a conflict and potentially inhibiting playback.



CABLE ADVICE

BLU MKII uses BNC terminations as standard, although not advised for maximum performance a BNC-to-coaxial adapter can be used. Please note that for the maximum sample rate to be transmitted from BLU MKII to your DAC you must use a high-quality shielded 75Ω interconnect. We advise keeping your interconnect length to a minimum, preferably with a 1m maximum and purchasing a matched pair.

06 Dither and sample rate switch options



Dither works by introducing a small amount of noise to the original audio signal resulting in a perceived performance increase. If you hear a hissing sound when audio is not being played back, please try disengaging the dither switch



Irrespective of the sample rate selected, BLU MKII will make full use of the M-SCALER technologies to deliver ultra-high-resolution playback with 1,015,808 taps when paired with DAVE

FOR OPTIMUM SOUND PERFORMANCE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SAMPLE RATE SWITCH OPTION IS SET TO 'POSITION DOWN; UPSAMPLING HIGH'



SAMPLE RATE SWITCH OPTIONS

- POSITION - UP:** Upsampling Low
eg. original signal 44.1kHz
- POSITION - MID:** Upsampling Medium
eg. signal now 176k.4kHz
- POSITION DOWN:** Upsampling High
eg. signal now 705.6kHz

DITHER SWITCH OPTIONS During USB or Coax use

- POSITION - UP**
Off/Normal (1million taps)
- POSITION - DOWN**
Video mode on*

*Video mode reduces the tap count to 666,666 taps for low latency (104ms) playback. Not advisable for general audio playback.

DITHER SWITCH OPTIONS During CD playback

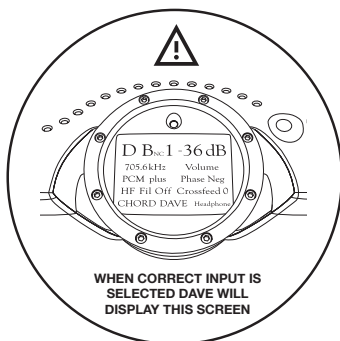
- POSITION - UP**
Off/Normal
- POSITION - DOWN**
On/16-bit dither



ALWAYS FULLY SWITCH OFF BLU MKII AND ANY CONNECTED EQUIPMENT WHEN CHANGING ANY SWITCH OPTION

07 Installation with DAVE

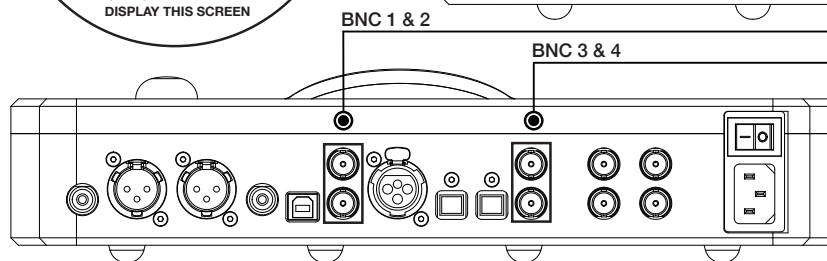
Whether used as a CD transport, or as a digital upscaler, BLU MKII is the perfect companion for DAVE and connecting the two is easy. Please make sure that before you embark on this next step, DAVE is switched off at the mains.



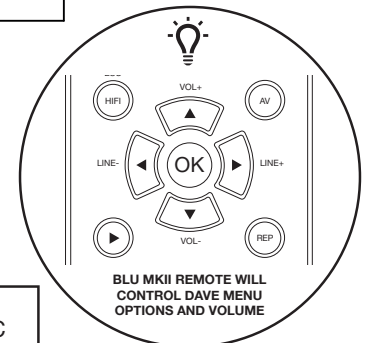
WHEN CORRECT INPUT IS SELECTED DAVE WILL DISPLAY THIS SCREEN



ALWAYS USE THE SAME BRAND, TYPE, AND LENGTH 75Ω BNC TERMINATED CABLE



DAVE



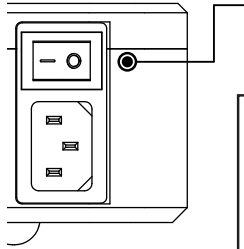
BLU MKII REMOTE WILL CONTROL DAVE MENU OPTIONS AND VOLUME

- 1** Connect BLU MKII to DAVE via dual data mode. You can use either BNC 1 and 2 or BNC 3 and 4, then switch the unit on
- 2** Navigate forward (not backwards) to BNC 1 if outputs from BLU MKII are connected to BNC inputs 1 and 2 on DAVE, or navigate to BNC 3 if outputs from Blu MKII are connected to BNC inputs 3 and 4
- 3** Wait approximately three seconds for DAVE to identify a dual-data signal. If successful 'D BNC' will show on DAVE's display



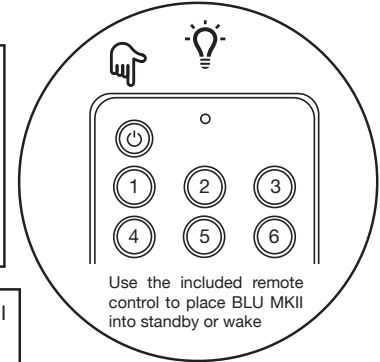
NEVER DISTURB ANY CONNECTION WHILST PLAYBACK IS ACTIVE. ALWAYS SWITCH UNIT OFF

08 Powering up and placement



After making all connections and selecting both the appropriate dither and sample rate, power up the BLU MKII by locating the rocker switch at the rear of the device and firmly press to 'ON' or 'I'

PLACEMENT	
	KEEP BLU MKII OFF OF CARPET AND SOFT SURFACES
	ALWAYS KEEP AWAY FROM SOURCES OF HEAT AND DIRECT SUNLIGHT
	ALWAYS ALLOW THE UNIT TO BE WELL VENTILATED
	FOR OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE WE RECOMMEND PURCHASING THE ENSEMBLE STAND



WARNING
THIS UNIT MUST BE EARTHED

Due to the enormous FPGA processing capabilities of the BLU MKII the unit may get warm during operation

Environmental awareness

Although BLU MKII can be permanently left on for convenience, as a minimum it is recommended that when not in use you allow the device to enter standby mode. For longer periods of inactivity, the device should be switched off via the rocker switch on the rear. Manually switching off the device will not affect performance during use.

09 Important information

CARE OF YOUR UNIT

- NEVER ALLOW BLU MKII TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH LIQUIDS.
- NEVER POKE OBJECTS INTO THE CONNECTORS OR HOUSING
- NEVER SPRAY CLEANER OR LIQUIDS ONTO BLU MKII
- ONLY USE A CLEAN DRY MICROFIBRE CLOTH TO CLEAN BLU MKII

USB DRIVERS

BLU MKII's high-resolution USB input is natively compatible with Apple Macintosh and Linux based operating systems - no drivers are required.

For Windows operating systems you must have Windows 7 and above and you must download the drivers available from the product page of the chordelectronics.co.uk website.

WARRANTY REGISTRATION

BLU MKII comes with a comprehensive 5-year warranty, covering parts and labour, from the date of purchase. To activate this warranty please register your purchase via the Chord Electronics website:

chordelectronics.co.uk/register-product

5 YRS WARRANTY

CE

RoHS
2002/95/EC

EN60065 compliant

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND

ELECTRIC SHOCK RISK

THERE ARE NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE BLU MKII. IN THE EVENT OF A FAULT, RETURN UNIT TO YOUR DEALER FOR A SERVICE.

10 Specifications

Digital inputs: CD, USB Type-B, and BNC S/PDIF

Digital outputs: AES (176.4kHz), BNC S/PDIF (384kHz), and DUAL BNC S/PDIF galvanically isolated

Frequency response: DC to 20kHz \pm 0.0000001dB

In-band ripple DC to 20kHz: DC to 20kHz \pm 0.0000002dB

Stop band rejection: -135dB

THD and noise 24-bit input: -144dB (defined by input)

WTA tap-length, 16FS filter: 1,015,808 taps

Dimensions: 335mm x 105mm x 170mm (WxHxD)

Weight: 7kg

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