

TESTED

Micromega MyDAC

₹29,000 (plus tax) | leviathan.co.in

Computers have taken over as everyone's favourite music players. The problem here is that the low-quality DAC on your PC does a terrible signal conversion job. That's why including a dedicated DAC in your setup helps.

The lack of cables with the MyDAC is a bit disappointing, since you expect basics like USB and 2RCA at the very least. You're only finally ready to go after you've made an annoying trip to the local electronics market.

The MyDAC from Micromega is firmly in premium territory as far as high-end audio is concerned, so the plasticky build comes as a bit of a surprise. Still, it is sturdy, and doesn't really worry you about build quality. It also has all the right ports, but comes with no cables except a power cord.



Operating the MyDAC is easy enough, since there's only one switch to choose the source, with USB, coaxial and optical as options. Output only routes through RCA, so you'll need the right cables for whatever output device you're using. With the right headphones or speakers, you could make your set-up sing.

There's an audible improvement in audio quality the minute you send your tunes through the MyDAC. There's an immediate sense of openness to the music as the soundstage widens up. It's a lot easier to tell distinct elements of the tracks you're listening to, and the whole experience is that much more immersive.

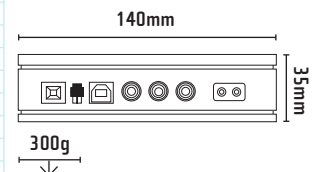
There is a bit of amplification from the device, but it's faint at best. The Micromega MyDAC isn't really about making things louder, it's more adept with clarity and definition. As a result, you'll find that it works better with uncompressed FLAC and WAV files, as opposed to compressed audio formats like MP3.



Why you need a DAC...
Ali Pardiwala, correspondent

Your computer has a tiny DAC inside, but it doesn't do a very good job with cleaning up your audio for true audiophile use. That's where an aftermarket DAC like the Micromega MyDAC comes in. Dedicated equipment and a larger DAC ensure a better job is done with the signal conversion. Sure, it might cost you some, but it's an easy way to turn your PC into a full fledged hi-fi setup, without investing too much in bulky high-end equipment.

TECH SPECS: MICROMEGA MYDAC



- USB Mode** Asynchronous, Class 1.0/2.0
- DAC** up to 24-bit/192kHz
- Inputs** USB, Coaxial, Optical
- Outputs** 2RCA
- Power supply** 85-265V
- Clocks** 2 (One each for multiples of 44.1kHz and 48kHz)
- Output level** 2V rms
- Output impedance** 600 Ohms

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

It might not look and feel like much, but this works like pure magic cleaning up your PC audio

CABLE LOGIC

MX USB-A(M) to USB-B(M)
₹354/5m | mdrelectronics.com
The Micromega MyDAC comes with exactly one cable, and that's the power cord. You'll need to go shopping for the rest, and you should start with a USB cable.



MX 2RCA(M) to 3.5mm (F)
₹310/1.5m | mdrelectronics.com
Want to plug in headphones or 3.5mm-capable speakers? You'll need one of these. This allows you to bypass the PC's DAC and still send audio to headphones.



NOW ADD THESE

Sennheiser HD700
₹59,990 | sennheiserindia.com
Sure, these headphones are expensive, but they also do a great job complementing the skills of the MyDAC, since both are focussed on audio clarity. A good buy if you're crazy about quality.



Apple MacBook Pro
from ₹81,900 | apple.com/in
Apple's flagship laptop range does a bit more than a typical Windows device by being 24-bit/192kHz capable from the start, along with ALAC support. So it provides better sound output.

