
Subject: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Tue, 09 Dec 2003 05:53:16 GMT

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This single tube dac is great but I would like to take some of the gain out of it. It's just really a hot signal. Any one have any mods for the home workbench?Bill

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 11 Dec 2003 01:36:58 GMT

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Is this an Art Audio product? What features does this unit have, or is it purely an interface?I'm kind of surprised Dave didn't reply, because I think this is one of his things. But maybe not.

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Sat, 13 Dec 2003 05:51:01 GMT

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Hi Wayne,It's a small single tube DAC. You can take the digital signal from any crappy sounding cd player and just use it as a transport. Then the DAC sends analogue signal into your preamp. I've heard better transports and dac before but the increase in performance was small and they cost literally thousand's. The DI/O is around a hundred bucks. Anyway the problem if it has one is that it's suited for balanced line and the signal is pretty hot. I'm more than happy to take it apart and replace some parts. I'm just not the guy to re-engineer the thing! Pick one up, they're cheap, you'll love it.Bill

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 13 Dec 2003 06:11:26 GMT

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The simplest D/A convertors are just a bank of resistors, and this method works pretty well, actually. A parallel set of digital signals is sent from the buss at periodic intervals, the sampling rate. All lines from the most-significant bit down to the least-significant bit are tied to a common point through resistors and, voila! The result is an analog signal. This is then amplified, and from what you're telling me, this is done by a small signal triode in your player.What brand is your interface or kit? What I mean is, who provided it? Do you send off your existing CD player for modification? Or do they sell the interface outright? Do you buy the CD player with the summing

tube already installed, as if it were made that way from the OEM?

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Sun, 14 Dec 2003 02:12:03 GMT

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Hi Wayne, I just copied the info from the ART website. You can find these little guys at almost any music store. Local or online. They do a great job compared to most things I've listened too, and for the cost of this unit there isn't anything that competes. All you need a a CD player that has a digital output (coax only) Plug the coax into the dac, then plug the right and left output from the dac into your preamp or receiver. Now your cd player is just a transport and the DI/O is doing all the work. Some how me putting together a bank of resisters isnt going t6o sound as good or be as cost effective in the end!

BillDIO - A/D Converter Overview Designed to help ease the transition to the digital world, the DIO offers high resolution stereo 24-bit A/D-D/A conversion at switchable sample rates from 44.1 to 96kHz. In external sync mode, the DIO's intelligent synchronization allows for automatic sync with outboard equipment at sample rates from 22kHz to 100kHz. The DIO can be used in a wide variety of applications including recording, project, and home studios. Let the DIO be the interface for your "classic" analog signal processing gear in an all-digital production environment. It's the perfect interface for any digital workstation or computer based recording system and gets the A/D-D/A conversion process out of the noisy digital environment. You can use the DIO as your instrument's direct-to-digital interface, thanks to its high input impedance. Upgrade the A/D-D/As on your DAT machine or any older digital I/O equipment with the DIO's high resolution converters. Get the most out of your dynamic range on new samples and overdubs. You can even loop thru the DIO to add "analog" warmth and musicality to an existing digital track. The latest refinements in ART's award winning tube pre-amp design are integrated on the front end, before the A/D converter, for analog gain and dynamic range control. At the clean setting, the tube circuitry is virtually bypassed and the A/D sees a "straight wire with gain" signal. As you increase the control the signal goes from ultra clean and transparent, thru silky, to smooth, to warm, to fat. At this end the tube becomes the dominant gain element, enhancing lower and mid level signals and soft limiting peaks and overshoots before they hit the A/D. This stereo unit provides superior audio conversion in the same compact package as ART's famous TubeMP, and like the TubeMP, the DIO's performance exceeds that of units costing many times its price. It's unique combination of features and flexibility will make it a must-have in any audio toolkit.

DIO - A/D Converter Features
SWITCHABLE 44.1, 48, 88.2, AND 96kHz SAMPLE RATES
INTELLIGENT SYNC COVERS A WIDE EXTERNAL RANGE
1/4" STEREO ANALOG INPUTS AND OUTPUTS
VARIABLE INPUT GAIN
HAND-SELECTED DUAL TRIODE TUBE
TOTALLY VARIABLE TUBE CHARACTER FROM TRANSPARENT TO WARM

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 14 Dec 2003 02:40:02 GMT

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Gotcha - Thanks for the "heads up." I didn't know if this was something you purchased as a stand alone unit, or if you sent your player in to someone for modification. Thanks for lettin' me know!

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [brianjones](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 03:29:32 GMT

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I don't have a pre-amp, could I hook it up directly to my power amp?

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 04:30:21 GMT

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Sorry but not even a remote chance the signal is very strong. If your cd player has a variable output it would work. I think you would be better off with a two channel 100k pot after the DI/O. A stepped attenuator would be very nice. There is a lot of signal and any form of passive preamp would do the trick.

Subject: ART DI/O mods FAQ

Posted by [Wayne1](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 17:46:22 GMT

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Craig Fraser has had a site with lots of different mods listed for a couple of years now. I have been modding this unit for about that long. There are lots of things you can do to improve the sound of it. Check out Craig's site and if you have any questions drop me an e-mail
ART DI/O mods

Subject: What's the latest on power supplies?

Posted by [Jim D.](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 18:29:36 GMT

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I have a couple of highly modded ART DI/Os. What's the latest for PS upgrades (DIY of course) after the Stancore walwart? Thanks, Jim D.

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [brianjones](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 18:35:31 GMT

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I am running the cdp (Adcom GCD700 changer with remote volume control it has a digital out)) in variable mode now with the Harmonic Recovery System between the power amp. Any guess if the Art DI/O improve the sonics of the Adcom w/ the H.R.S. ?

Subject: Re: What's the latest on power supplies?

Posted by [Wayne1](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 19:11:48 GMT

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Jim, Look around in Mouser or Digikey for a good E-core transformer, 9-10 VAC at 5 amps or better. Stick it in a good steel case and use very good cable and connectors from the AC outlet and to the DI/O connectors. Make sure you've changed out the 5 volt regulator inside the DI/O. The stock one does not regulate well at all.

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?

Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 19:12:38 GMT

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The better the equipment the less the gain. It will give it a warmer sound and you might like it. Make sure the digital output on your CD is variable if your counting on that for attenuation. Bill

Subject: Thanks! Will do (nt)

Posted by [Jim D.](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 20:39:22 GMT

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Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods FAQ

Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Sat, 20 Dec 2003 02:15:41 GMT

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Thanks for the link. I've been looking it over and I think I'll try some mods and see what happens.Bill

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods FAQ
Posted by [Wayne1](#) on Sat, 20 Dec 2003 02:30:13 GMT
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Bill,You are welcome. If you have any questions about any of the mods, drop me a line. I have modded several hundred and should be able to help you if you run into any problems.Happy Holidays!Wayne Waananen

Subject: Re: ART DI/O mods?
Posted by [akhilsh](#) on Sun, 08 Feb 2004 18:04:58 GMT
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HI,The tube part of this converter is only A to D. The D2A actually runs better without the tube, sicne there is less heat in the case. Boulder cables does some good mods. I have no idea how good the output stage is, but some people swear by the modded dac. I decided to go a different route (much older high end)
