NAC-N 172 XS
Network-Connected Streaming Preamplifier

Audio Inputs

Analogue Inputs	1 x 5-pin DIN, 1 x RCA pair, 1 x 3.5mm front-panel jack
Input Sensitivity	160mV for 1V RMS output
Input Impedance	30kΩ
Digital Inputs	5 x S/PDIF (2 x coaxial RCA, 2 x optical TOSlink, 1 x 3.5mm front panel mini-TOSlink)
Sample Rates Maximum	192kHz (coaxial), 96kHz (optical)
UPnP™	Ethernet (RJ45) or Wi-Fi
USB/iPod	1 front-panel socket

Audio Outputs

Analogue Outputs (variable level)	1 x 4-pin DIN, 1 x RCA pair
Analogue Outputs (fixed level)	1 x RCA pair
Output Level	1Vrms
Frequency Response	5Hz to 40kHz
Output Impedance	<47Ω (variable outputs), <600Ω (fixed output)
Minimum Load Impedance	10kΩ
Headphone	Stereo (front panel 3.5mm jack)

Connectivity

Infrared	Via front panel logo (RC5)
Remote Input	3.5mm panel jack on rear (RC5)
Remote Output	3.5mm panel jack on rear (RC5)
USB	Updates only (rear-panel USB mini-B)

FORMATS

Audio Files Supported	WAV and AIFF (up to 32bit/192kHz) FLAC (up to 24bit/192kHz) ALAC (up to 24bit/96kHz) WMA (up to 16bit/48kHz) must be WMA 9.2 Ogg Vorbis (up to 16bit/48kHz) MP3, M4a (up to 320kbit/s), Playlists (M3U, PLS) iRadio Service Provider vTuner 5* full service Internet radio (Windows Media-formatted content, MP3 streams, MMS, Ogg Vorbis)

User Control Interfaces

Front-panel	Volume control, logo mute and buttons
Handheld	Remote handset included and optional n-Stream app for iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch available from the App store.

UPGRADES

Other	Hi-Line, Power-Line

POWER

Mains Supply	100V, 115V or 230V, 50/60Hz
Power Consumption	35VA (maximum)

OTHER

Tuning range	FM 87.5 - 108MHz, DAB Band III and L Band
iRadio Service Provider	vTuner 5* full service

Product Certifications & Licenses

Certifications	vTuner Premium
Licenses	MP3, AAC, DAB

PHYSICAL

Dimensions	70 x 432 x 301mm (H x W x D)
Weight	5.65kg
Front finish	Brushed and black anodised
Case finish	Black powder coated

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NAC-N 172 XS

Network-connected streaming preamplifier

Preamplified streaming

Audio equipment has always fallen easily into established categories: preamplifier, power amplifier or source. However, the NAC-N 172 XS is different. It requires an entirely new category definition: the network-connected streaming preamplifier.

But what's in a name? For a start, the NAC-N 172 XS is a very high performance and inherently musical preamplifier. It combines a mix of analogue and digital audio inputs, a digitally-controlled analogue volume knob, and analogue outputs to connect to a power amplifier. And the NAC-N 172 XS offers even more besides, because along with its conventional inputs it includes a front panel USB audio interface for iPad, iPod and iPhone input, and a wired or wireless network connection to access internet radio stations or stream from UPnP™ music servers. The NAC-N 172 XS defines a creative point at which two worlds collide – the traditional world of separate pre and power amplifiers, and the new world of network streaming.

The best of both worlds

The NAC-N 172 XS incorporates two products in one. It is a conventional preamplifier, perfectly at home in a Naim separates environment where, partnered by a Naim NAP 155 XS power amplifier perhaps, it can reproduce music from CD or vinyl in such a way that stirs the soul and quickens the pulse. But the NAC-N 172 XS also opens a door to the new sphere of high-resolution audio, internet radio and streamed music. This sphere has the very same soul-stirring potential as conventional audio sources, but is effectively limitless in scope and content.

The arrival of streamed audio marks a transformation in music in the home and the NAC-N 172 XS gives access to its full potential. Through a wired or wireless network connection, the NAC-N 172 XS can play literally thousands of internet radio stations – many of them a voyage of musical discovery in their own right. DAB and FM stations are also available through an optional module. With a front-panel USB interface, the NAC-N 172 XS can play audio files stored on USB memory sticks, as well as music from an iPad, iPod or iPhone. The UPnP™ capabilities of the NAC-N 172 XS also enable it to play audio files and access iTunes libraries stored on a computer or network drives. There are no limits in terms of audio file type or resolution. With both USB/iPod and UPnP™ inputs, the NAC-N 172 XS can play the full range of file and stream formats at up to 32bit/192kHz resolution: WAV, FLAC, Apple

Lossless, AIFF, Windows-Media-formatted content, MP3, M4a, MMS, AAC, AIFF and Ogg Vorbis. It can also handle M3U and PLS playlist formats, and supports gapless playback.

For more conventional external audio sources, the NAC-N 172 XS offers three conventional analogue inputs and five S/PDIF digital inputs. The five digital inputs can handle signals at up to 24bit/192kHz resolution and use a mix of optical TOSlink and coaxial phono options to provide both versatility and optimised sound quality.

Technology

As the first Naim streaming preamplifier, the NAC-N 172 XS introduces numerous innovative techniques for signal processing and isolation to ensure that each audio signal or stream is output with maximum fidelity. It employs a Burr Brown digital-to-analogue converter chip that offers the same performance as the chip fitted to the digital benchmark Naim NDX network player. And it benefits from all the filtering and signal management techniques that have placed Naim at the forefront of digital music in the home.

NAC-N 172 XS component selection is entirely optimised for sound quality and the XS style case construction helps minimise microphony by providing a rigid, non-resonant foundation for the electronics. As with every Naim product, fastidious attention to power supply noise and regulation, PCB layout and earthing topology is a fundamental aspect of NAC-N 172 XS performance.

The result of this extraordinary technology is extraordinary music reproduction that lives, breathes and satisfies. Integrate a NAC-N 172 XS into an existing audio system or build a new pre/power amplifier system around it and the world of high-resolution audio, UPnP™ streaming, and the vast resources of internet radio can be connected seamlessly with your existing world of CD and vinyl.

Control

The NAC-N 172 XS is as versatile in its use as it is in its applications. Three user interfaces provide alternative methods of control – each one suitable for different situations and personal preferences. It can be operated using the front panel buttons and rotary volume control, from a remote control handset, or using the free Naim n-Stream control app for iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch. Control is simple, straightforward and satisfying and, with the n-Stream app, uniquely liberating.