



DIGITAL SERVER OF THE YEAR

HiFi Rose RS150B

Korean newcomer HiFi Rose hit the ground running with its RS150B server/media player. Its massive 21:9 style screen that takes up the majority of the front of the device is not just a display, it's a touch screen that allows access to all of the features on this very slick media player. Those looking for a one box solution to most of their home entertainment requirements will find a lot that appeals here. Side-stepping the thorny subject of audio or video file serving, this Rose is an Ultra HD 4K video and hi-res audio streamer, a fully featured DAC and a preamplifier, in one.

Except for Bluetooth (although it uses a Bluetooth remote for those not controlling the HiFi Rose via an App) and a headphone socket, the RS150B bristles with inputs and outputs of almost every kind imaginable, as befits its audio-meets-video approach. It sports a ESS Sabre chip that runs at up to 32-bits/384kHz and DSD512. It offers full MQA decoding and can stream from all the usual services with control by the Rose

Connect app or Roon, and UPnP controllers too. In short, it's a fully-functioning digital front-end that is the antithesis of the hair-shirt approach of old.

Jason Kennedy found much to like about the HiFi Rose RS150B, "It is quietly enjoyable... not drawing attention to itself but delivering the soul and groove of whatever is played." he said, adding that, "This had a distinctly appealing effect and revealed the RS150B to be a rather more subtle performer than it first appeared."

The output of the HiFi Rose is extremely flexible, too. He remarked that, "I found the DAC filter settings page in the menu and used one of the two linear phase options to get a more engaging result with better timing... Anyone looking to get the best out of this Rose should listen to several of the options here as they make a clear difference to the sound and give it a degree of transparency that the default setting lacks." And concluded the review by saying, "Its sheer flexibility is remarkable in itself; never have I seen different levels of fixed output before nor has filter setting been so straightforward." +

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