

# Has Rossini reached its peak?

UK DIGITAL AUDIO SPECIALIST DCS HAS APPLIED THE LATEST APEX DAC UPGRADES TO ITS ROSSINI STREAMER/UPSAMPLING DAC. MARTIN COLLOMS SAYS IT'S A TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE, AND MAKES THIS RESPECTED PRODUCT EVEN BETTER

**Having started out some 35 years ago making radar systems for military jets, before moving into the audio arena with professional A/D convertors for mastering – renowned tonmeister Tony Faulkner was an early adopter of its 900 series –, dCS has in more recent times concentrated exclusively on audiophile replay, where its skills in jitter suppression and high-order oversampling computation have proved a good fit for the audiophile market.**

The company's most recent innovation is the introduction of its APEX technology, involving substantial and comprehensive improvement to the power supplies, enhancement of the analogue stages and some fine tuning of the proprietary 'Ring DAC', with revisions to the layout of its circuitboard. But the DAC itself is basically unchanged: it remains fundamentally a 1bit, high oversampled digital to audio converter, first seen in 1991 and involving some Bitstream technology.

The initial application of this technology is to the company's Vivaldi and Rossini products, including the Rossini APEX DAC upsampling streamer/DAC we have here, at £25,500, and the Rossini APEX Player CD/SACD player/streamer version, at an extra £2500. Existing Vivaldi and Rossini owners may have their products 'Apexed' for £6000, this upgrade requiring a return to the factory due to for the extensive nature of the rebuild required.

A chunky looking unit, the Rossini APEX DAC is dominated by a heavy duty and deeply machined alloy front panel, the whole unit being cased in heavy-duty anodised alloy plate in satin silver (or black), and supported on large and effective machined alloy feet with vibration absorbing inserts. There's a modest display to the left of the fascia, then a power button plus four more control buttons – for menu, input filter, choice of signal input and mute – acting in conjunction with layered menus, while to the right a smooth acting rotary encoder provides precision volume control of volume. In addition, the Rossini's menu system offers a large range of modes, upsampling filters and facilities, these being most readily addressed via the company's Mosaic app.

## dCS DAC and Filter Options

dCS believes its DACs were the first to offer a choice of Nyquist filter image corrections back in the late

