



STREAMER/NETWORK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

AURALiC VEGA G1 | Reviewed in Issue 168

The ever-increasing range of digital audio products from AURALiC is not simply growing for its own sake. Each step along the way brings new world-class digital audio devices at a range of prices. We have been blown away by the recent higher-end G2 and GX models, but the VEGA G1 represents a powerful network streaming DAC with few compromises at a very good price. That it doesn't trounce its bigger brothers only happens because of the excellent performance of the brand's top devices.

While at first glance, the G1 and G2 are similar, the bolted-together chassis and reliance on the chip-based volume control in the VEGA G1 are markedly different to the G2's Unity chassis and custom discrete volume. Other changes are more subtle, but to focus on these differences neglects the VEGA G1's big benefit; it runs off AURALiC's excellent Lightning DS app, is therefore easy to set-up, and sounds remarkably good. We found "the G1 manages to combine the inherently musical aspects of many really great streamers with the kind of detail and dynamic range that sets the best apart from the merely good." In fact, pulling out examples proved hard; "bass is perhaps what the G1 does best. That... and all the other things it does best too!" Even the built-in headphone amplifier is no mere afterthought, and is deceptively powerful. We concluded that, with the VEGA G1, AURALiC, "really does live up to the hype."

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