



# Gold Note DS-10 Evo

**WINNER**  
STREAMER/DAC

**G**old Note is an Italian company that originally made its name with analogue equipment. The DS-10 EVO is a streamer/DAC which can be supplied with or without an internal analogue preamplifier. Whatever configuration you choose it makes a powerful case for itself by offering extensive features in a half-sized box at a very reasonable price and it has the technical and musical chops to sit at the front of some impressive music systems. The DS-10 EVO can handle all resolutions, including MQA and Gold Note offers its own control app. It can also accept external digital inputs from other equipment through a series of rear panel connections. In addition, its unique Chameleon mode allows the listener to customise the DAC to control the EQ curve, the de-emphasis curve, and provide fine control options over the voltage being sent to the DAC section itself.

In our test, Chris Thomas felt that, "This little machine has a compelling musical nature and some desirable attributes that appeal to those core audio values that I have always looked for." He pointed out that "It sounds taut and controlled but never rhythmically over-rigid. Its tonal balance is just about spot-on and it never strays into that rather matter-of-fact sense of resolution-first music style that some streamer/DACs do. In fact, its resolving power tends to feel entirely subsidiary to its bouncing sense of tuneful exuberance for most of the time."

He concluded his review by saying, "I think it's a great little package because it is always succinct and to the point. It sounds very good indeed and as a gateway to the world of music outside your living room I'd say it's a pretty solid investment."

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