

Review from a customer – DAC 07

This is the first time I've had the opportunity to experience anything from the Newontech brand. I had read about it and knew it was a high-end audio brand from Denmark, but, somehow, I had never heard its products in person.

Initially, I had some reservations about the Newontech DAC 07 and its sound. However, after hearing the first few notes played through Ole's (the designer and mastermind behind the Newontech brand) own fully-fledged Newontech system, I knew right away that this was going to be something very special.

Before diving into the experience, I have to mention that until the Newontech DAC landed in my system, I had been chasing bits, bytes, and specs with every DAC I tried. Having swapped several DACs in and out of my setup, I had come to believe that any new unit would bring only a minor improvement, even if it came with a hefty price tag. I also suspected that any significant, noticeable step forward would cost a fortune. To be fair, the Newontech DAC 07 isn't exactly on the cheap side, but *oh boy*, what it brings to the table is extraordinary!

When I replaced my previous DAC, which was based on the ESS Sabre ES9038Q2M chip, I knew every specification and detail by heart. I even knew which filters I preferred for different genres, whether it was acoustic, jazz, or casual listening. In hindsight, I can now describe all of those previous DACs as presenting a "wall of sound" with a soundstage around it. There wasn't much in the way of instrument separation, realism, or physical depth of the soundstage. There was some, but I kept thinking: "Is that it?" I wondered what else is there that could bring more joy in the audio system.

The moment I connected the Newontech DAC 07, I could immediately tell there is difference. From the very first seconds, vocals were brought into the room, away from the speakers. The "sound wall" I was so accustomed to had disappeared. It was as if someone had remastered my music in a completely new way. Vocals emerged clearly in front of the music, not overwhelming or out of place, but strikingly real—like a live performance happening in front of me. The more I listened, the more I fell in love with the stunning realism: so detailed, so musical, so full of life.

Listening to Diana Krall's A Case of You from her live recording in Paris was an absolute joy! The intimate atmosphere of the Paris Olympia venue was transported right into my room. I could sense the depth, the size, and the presence of the audience to such an extent that I almost clapped along with them at the end of the song. It was like attending a live concert! And yet, I was in my own room and this was coming from my two modest ATC SCM 19 speakers!

The depth and layering of details were simply breathtaking. For example, in Ed Sheeran's Tenerife Sea, the chorus revealed multiple vocal layers blended in harmony to expand the soundstage. With the Newontech DAC 07, these layers were so clear and distinct that I could almost peel them apart and count them, yet they never felt intrusive or disjointed. Each voice and instrument had its own breathing space, its own place in time, and an incredibly vibrant, musical quality.

After upgrading the RCA cables between the Newontech DAC 07 and my Densen preamp, I discovered that the DAC had even more to offer. My previous cables, with less effective shielding, had been eating away at the subtle details. Once revealed, the music took on another level of resolution. For example, in Grace Carter's rendition of Wicked Game, I could hear the natural frequency of her voice extending into a beautifully controlled reverberation. The sound engineers had seamlessly allowed her voice to fade into the background, where new layers of sound emerged—a natural and masterful extension of her performance. What a depth! Oooooah!

What amazed me most about the Newontech DAC 07 is how it shifted my perspective on hi-fi audio. Suddenly, I'm no longer obsessed with technical specs or resolution numbers in bits and herz. Instead, I can simply enjoy the music. That's not to say the DAC doesn't reward you with breathtaking detail when fed a high-quality source—it absolutely does—but its brilliance lies in how effortlessly musical and immersive it makes everything sound. Please do yourself a favor and give a Newontech 07 DAC a try!

Is this my last Newontech product? Most certainly not! 😊

Associated gear: ATC SCM 19, Densen D320, Densen D230 + Densen DNRG, Tidal connect streaming via Volumio, Furutech and Audioquest cables.