

McIntosh Upgrades With DA2 Module

Written by Alice Marshall
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Owners of McIntosh hardware featuring the DA1 digital audio module get an upgrade-- the DA2, a means to add audio-only HDMI Audio Return Channel (ARC) capability and multichannel audio support.



Supported multichannel formats include both Dolby and DTS, and they are converted to two-channel audio for playback through any DA2-equipped unit. The module is also compatible with CEC communications, allowing customers to control the power and volume of any connected McIntosh unit with a TV remote. The USB input supports native playback of up to DSD512 (plus DXD up to 384kHz), thanks to a quad-balanced 8-channel 32-bit DAC.

Connectivity includes x2 coaxial and x2 optical digital audio inputs, together with x1 USB and x1 proprietary MCT. The coax and optical inputs decode digital music up to 24-bit/192kHz, while the MCT input provides a secure DSD connection for high-definition SACD audio playback when paired with McIntosh MCT series SACD/CD transports.

The upgrade is compatible with the the MA9000, MA8900, MA7200 and MA5300 integrated

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amplifiers, MAC7200 receiver and C49 preamplifier. It is an optional upgrade, and can only be performed by either authorised McIntosh dealers or McIntosh Service Agency.

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