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Available on: [Facebookplurk](#)

It could be said that Primare's latest NP30 streaming media player takes the "simplicity" in the spirit of North European design to the next level. Only one row of dim LED indicators decorate the front aluminium panel, with a shining metallic key to either side. As well as the printed characters, a logo is inscribed at the corners; aside from these, there is nothing else on the casing. The NP30 appears simple, but this is an impression created by Primare. It is well-designed and practical, however, the NP30 is nothing like as simple as it appears; it has eighteen "skills," allowing the user to play music in every possible way, and do it instantly.

Supports UPnP / DLNA

So, what functions does the NP30 have? First, the NP30 supports UPnP, allowing it to connect to a network system such as a computer or an NAS through a cable or wireless connection, directly playing

music files saved on such equipment. Different file formats, such as WAV, AIFF, FLAC, MP3, AAC, WMA, OGG, and ALAC pose no challenge to the NP30. What's more, it supports sampling rates of up to 24 bits / 192kHz. The NP30's panel is so attractive because it has no display panel, and so the trend for apps operated by shaking cannot be avoided. Here, Primare has written its own program, known as Primare App, which can be downloaded free of charge by iOS or Android users.



The NP30 is not equipped with a panel like other streaming media players; it displays the source file and connection status using only lights. As a result, it can maintain Primare's customary minimalistic exterior.

USB A and USB B ports can be found on the back of the NP30. These allow connection to Windows or Mac computers, and the NP30's internal XMOSS USB Audio 2.0 receiver chip provides asynchronous transmission at rates of up to 24 bits / 192kHz. But mobile software, which can be downloaded from Primare's official site, must first be installed on computers running Windows. The USB A socket, meanwhile, can be used to connect to an iPhone / iPad / iPod, flash drive or high-capacity hard drive.



However, the NP30 is nothing like as simple as it appears; it has eighteen skills, allowing the user to play music in every possible way, and do it instantly. The varied ports and sockets on the back are instantly apparent.

Can Stream from Spotify

Another of the NP30's strengths is that it can use a wireless connection to stream media from an iPhone/iPad/iPod through Primare App, making it more convenient to use. Aside from streaming and USB connection, the NP30 is also a dedicated digital-to-analogue converter (DAC), providing 3 optical fibre ports and 1 RCA socket; it can be connected to your old CD player or blue-ray player.

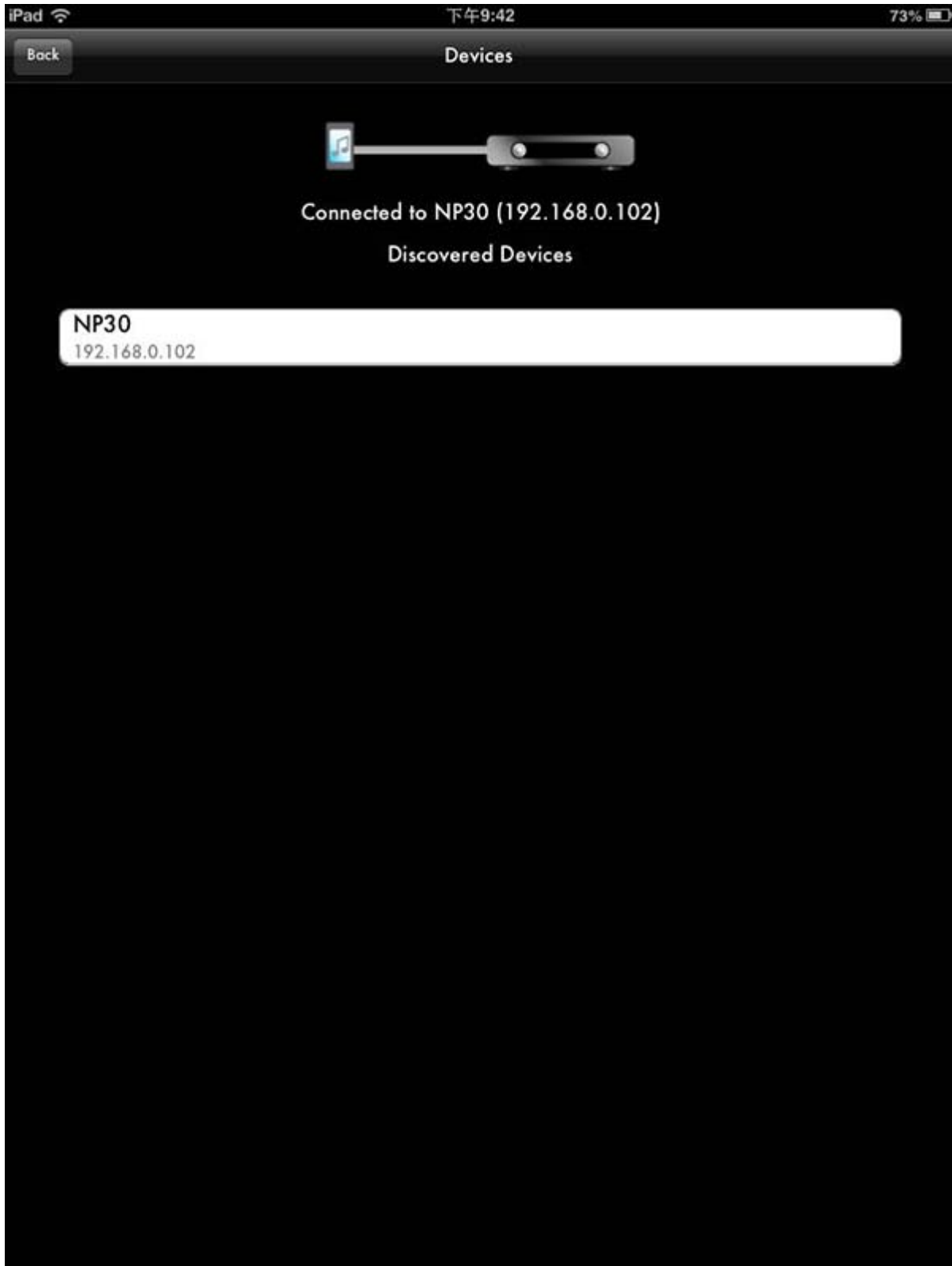
Of course, you can also listen to Internet radio through the NP30. Internet radio is the core functionality of today's streaming media players, but the NP30 also provides a vTuner service; only a one-time username and password are required to add the vTuner streaming platform to your favourites on Primare App, where they can be managed, making station selection more convenient. Better yet, the NP30 has integrated the Spotify music streaming service into its streaming functionality. That means as well as using it to listen to Spotify outside, you can keep listening after you go home - with a wireless connection!



The logo inscribed on the case exudes the quality and style of the product.

Next, I'll use illustrations to explain Primare App's interface and use, so everyone will understand how to use the NP30.

Network settings



The first step in using the NP30 is configuring the network, unless you simply use it as a DAC. Today's hubs all provide automatic IP address allocation, so you need only connect the NP30 to the network to use it immediately - no need to configure settings. If you wish to configure a wireless network for the NP30, first connect to the network, then simply configure the network through Primare App. Below: after the NP30 has connected to the network, Primare App has already found the NP30 in the LAN. If there are many Primare streaming media devices in the house, this will be shown; PrimareApp can control multiple sources simultaneously. Select the one you wish to use.

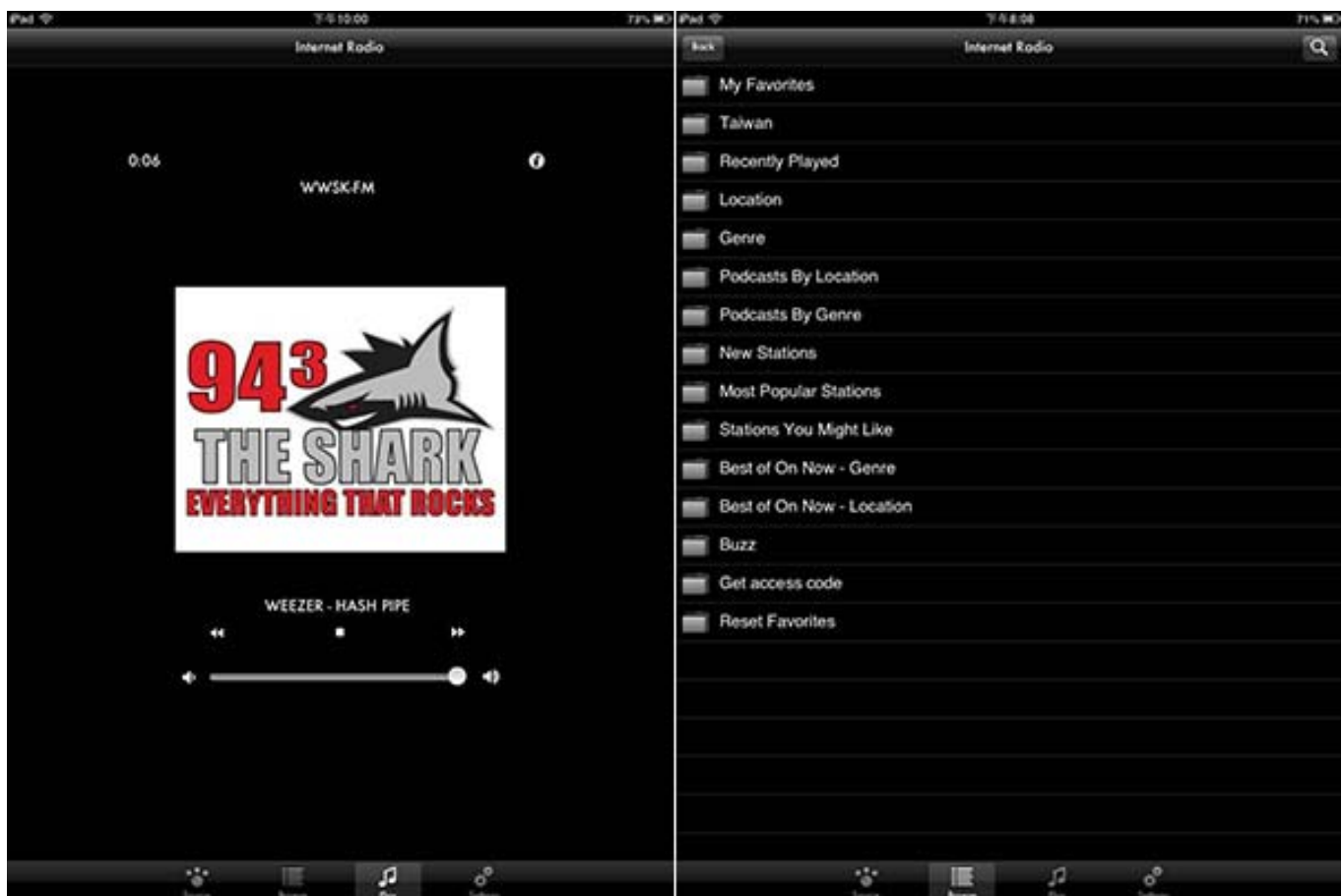


After selecting an NP30, you will enter its source selection page, where you can see each of its functions, including Internet radio, music on streaming servers, USB drives, iPod play, other digital sources, as well as USB and DAC functionality, etc. Of these, “iPod” play refers to wireless broadcasting from Apple iDevice; please note that AirPlay should not be used for this.

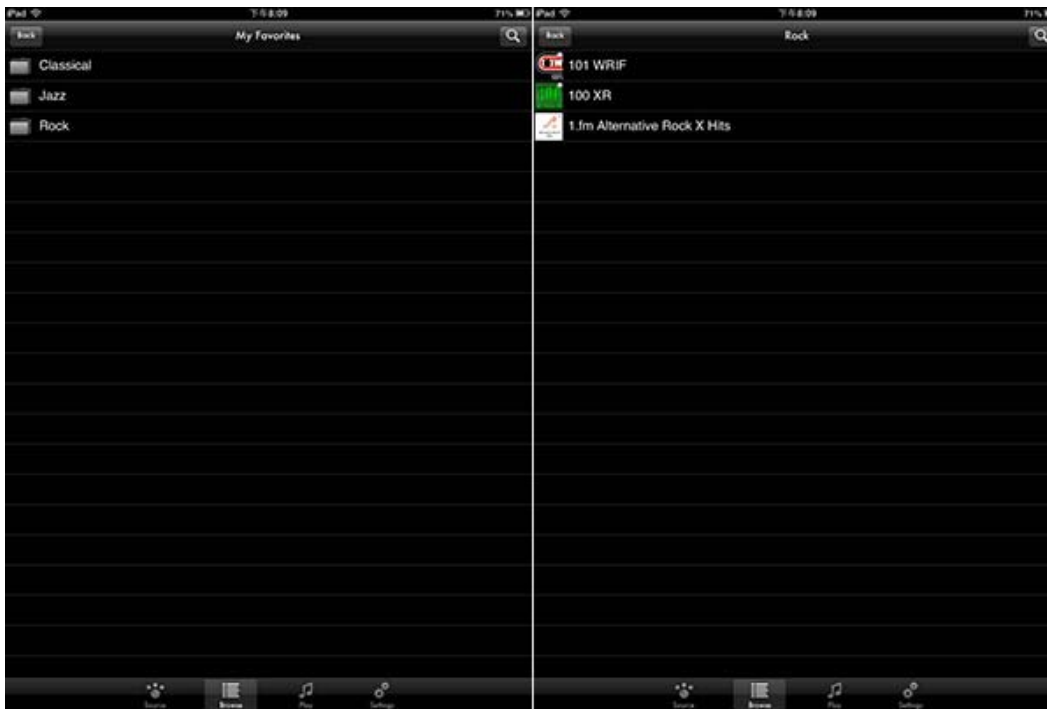
Internet Radio



Left: select the Internet Radio function, and Primare App displays many different types of music station from all over the world, listed by type to make searching easier. Right: this is a wide selection of stations, displayed alphabetically as a result of my choosing the "rock" category, then the region "U.S."



Left: I've chosen a station, "94.3 The Shark," and rock begins playing immediately. Right: this screen looks identical to that on the left above,. Actually, the first entry has changed to My Favourite; after initializing Primare's vTuner service, a folder called My Favourite will be added to Primare App. It will contain the stations I select in vTuner.



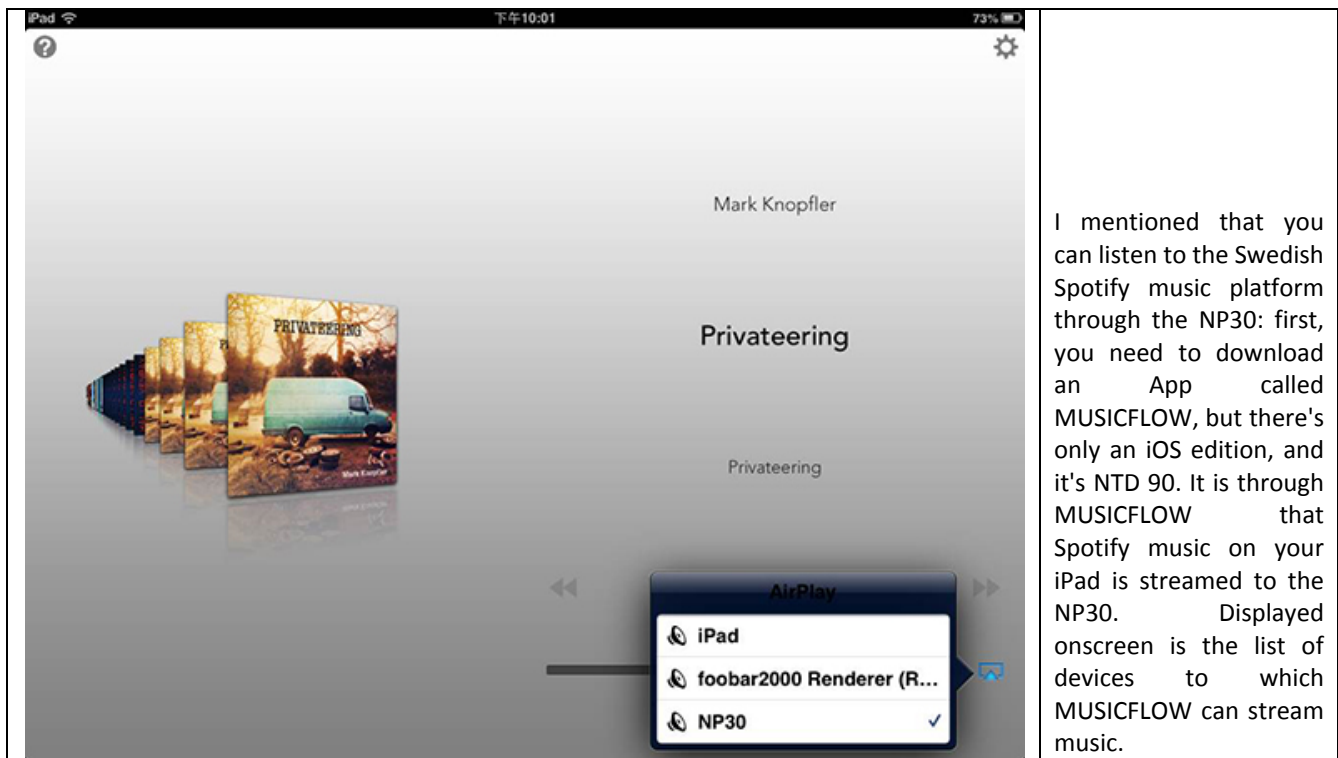
Left: selecting My Favourites, it can be seen that another 3 folders have been displayed; I chose this classification. Let's take a look at the "Rock" folder. Left: after selecting "Rock", I can see 3 stations I've previously chosen. vTuner makes listening to Internet radio fast and convenient.

Playing Music Stored on a Media Database

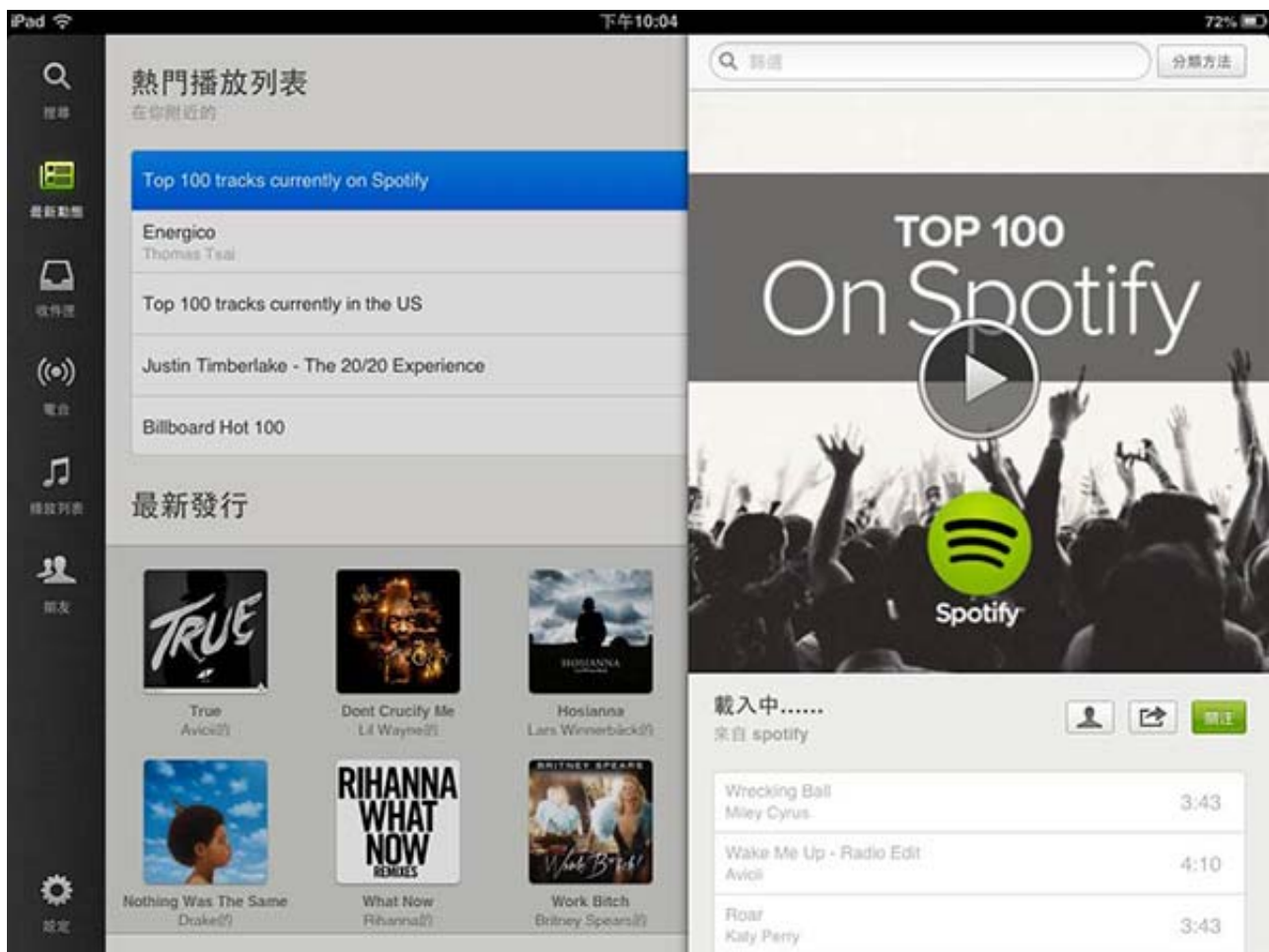


Left: how can music stored on a server be played? Select Audio Server in the source selection page, and uPnP devices on the LAN, such as computers, NAS, iPads, etc., will be shown. If a media server database exists on any of them, you will be able to stream the music on it. Right: I've chosen a media server database. After this, I can display the different types of music it contains in several ways, such as by album name, artist, music genre, folder...

Streaming Spotify



I mentioned that you can listen to the Swedish Spotify music platform through the NP30: first, you need to download an App called MUSICFLOW, but there's only an iOS edition, and it's NTD 90. It is through MUSICFLOW that Spotify music on your iPad is streamed to the NP30. Displayed onscreen is the list of devices to which MUSICFLOW can stream music.



This is Spotify; it is a paid service which allows you to hear the latest, hottest music.

Full Bass Eminently Fashionable

We've finished talking about functionality. Let's really start listening. The NP30's back panel provides an XLR balanced audio socket and RCA connectors. Based on the advice given in the manual, if your backing stage also has an equalization circuit, the NP30's XLR connector can use it to its full potential. When listening, a full set of internal Neo series of 350P Moon and 400 MONO channels also feature an equalization circuit, making the NP30 a convenient accompaniment. The NP30's mobile speakers are Dynaudio Focus 160 speakers, for details of which please refer to the Moon 380D DAC.



The inside of the NP30 seems empty. This is not to save material, but because surface mount device components have been used for all components, saving more than a little space.

As soon as the music starts, the NP30 exudes lively, cheerful personality, a kind of inviting sound, which does not need bothersome adjustment or anything else. As soon as everything is in place, and the music starts, it will sound good better, even, than the 380D. There are a few secrets to the NP30's good acoustics, including a feeling of greater scale, and greater proximity, allowing listeners to come closer to the music. What's more, its high frequency, fine quality, and strong intermediate frequency, and strong bass, is both fashionable and possessed of high quality.

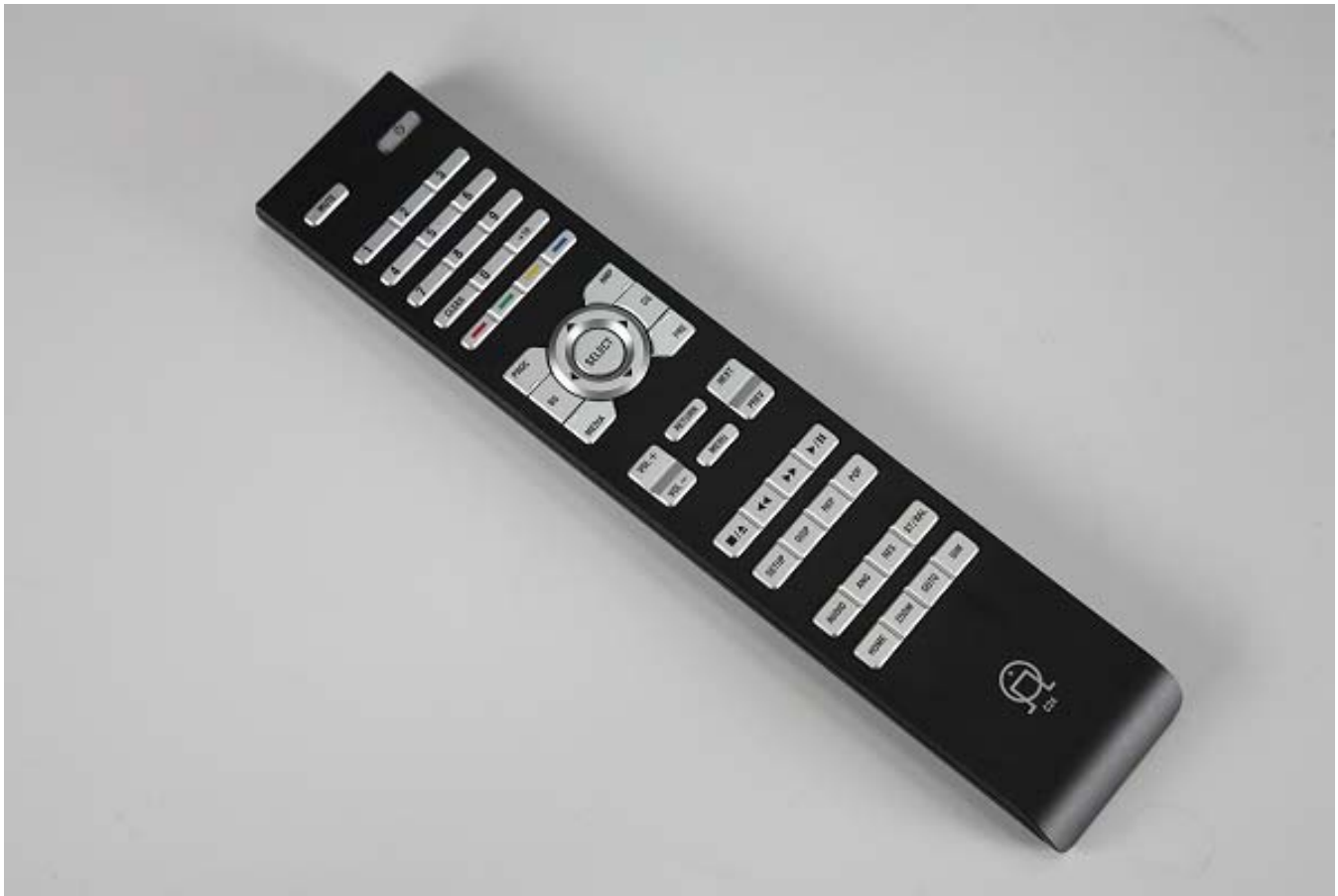


Take Jane Monheit's album "Taking a Chance on Love" for example: listening to the first track, Honeysuckle Rose, you can sense the happy, lively, bouncy quality of the song. This is because the NP30's bass is not only full, but also clear, tight, and even amidst the greater mid and lower frequencies, it doesn't lose the vital elements which make one feel alive, bringing also a feeling of happiness.

The Musical Lifestyle

Next, listen to the ever-shifting The Dali CD Volume 3: well-suited to gauging all-round musical function, it brings out the NP30's balanced, approachable quality and well-roundedness. I can easily sense that the music played by the NP30 combines low, medium and high frequencies so well that their proportions seems to stretch out before me. The bass is clean enough to set many details off; full, plentiful, and layered, it makes the music deep, solid, and neat. Although not in the same league as the 380D, it is still a superior flexible, mobile source. I believe that the NP30 will bring users who want a simplified music player and place more emphasis on quality of life and home atmosphere an opportunity to be moved. What the NP30 represents is actually a kind of musical life, not the limitations of musical hardware.





Device Specifications

Type: Streaming radio / DAC

Formats supported: WAV, AIFF, FLAC, MP3, AAC, WMA, OGG, and ALAC

Sampling frequency: 32 - 192 kHz

Digital inputs: Optical×3, SPDIF×1, USB-A, USB-B, WLAN, LAN

Output: XLR, RCA

Output resistance: XLR 110M, RCA 100M

Dimensions: 430×95×370mm (W×H×D)

Weight: 8.5 kg

RRP: NTD 158,000

Import agent: Ansbach

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