

BRYSTON



BRYSTON BCD-3^{2.0} CD PLAYER



2.0



2026

BRYSTON FACTORY



Bryston is a Canadian audio manufacturer in Dwight, Ontario, Canada known for hand-built, high-performance components for music and home theatre enthusiasts. The company focuses on low distortion, long-term reliability, and rigorous testing, making its products ideal for customers seeking premium sound and lasting value.

Bryston's History

Bryston began in 1962 in medical electronics before shifting into audio. By the 1970s, it had earned a reputation for precision-built amplifiers and later expanded into preamplifiers, digital components, loudspeakers, and home theatre products. Today, Bryston continues to prioritize Canadian manufacturing, careful component selection, and a design philosophy centred on accuracy, durability, and musical realism.

NEW 2U CHASSIS



SILVER BCD-3 2.0



2.0



BLACK BCD-3 2.0



WHY BOTHER ?



For many audiophiles, digital audio began with CDs - and even in today's download-driven world, CDs remain everywhere. So why not hear them at their best? Bryston's BCD-3 2.0 is built exclusively for CD playback. Unlike universal disc players, which involve compromises that can limit CD performance, the BCD-3 is dedicated to getting the most from your collection. And for many of us, those collections can still bring as much joy today as they did when we first bought them.

The BCD-3 2.0 begins with a high-current, ultra-low-noise power supply. It adds an anti-vibration disc transport engineered specifically for 'Redbook' CD playback, the same dual-DAC circuit used in our award-winning BDA-3 2.0 DAC, and a high-precision master clock to keep everything perfectly synchronized. The result is jitter-free playback, wide dynamic range, and simple operation - making your CD collection easier to enjoy and better sounding than ever.

Finally, for many music lovers, learning a new digital streaming playback method can get in the way of simply enjoying music. If that sounds familiar, the BCD-3 2.0 may be the last CD player you'll ever need.



ALL IN ONE



ADVANTAGE:

One advantage of an all-in-one CD player, compared with a separate transport and external DAC, is reduced jitter. **For optimal performance, the drive and DAC must share the same master clock. If their clock signals are not synchronized, timing errors occur.** External DACs therefore need to re-clock the digital input to help reduce jitter, which is the mistiming of a digital signal.

The timing of digital ones and zeros is critical. Accurate bits alone are not enough; they must be converted back into music using the same timing reference used when the music was first digitized. These timing errors, known as jitter, can compromise audio quality. In the Bryston CD player, the master clock and drive are precisely synchronized to prevent jitter from affecting sound quality.

A two-box setup, with a player and external DAC, also requires two additional conversions: the I2S signal must first be converted to SPDIF, then converted back to I2S inside the DAC. Recreating the master clock from the SPDIF signal can introduce more jitter. A single-box design avoids these extra conversions - KISS !

DAC CHIP



DAC integrated circuits, or chips, convert digital signals into analog audio. The BCD-3 2.0 utilizes the AKM 4490 DAC chip.

Like all DAC chips, the AKM 4490 applies a digital filter before conversion and an analog filter afterward. It is a hybrid multi-bit delta-sigma DAC - an advanced design that combines several techniques to optimize the conversion process.

This DAC also oversamples the signal eight times, similar to the earlier up-sampling process, which places filtering artifacts beyond the audible range. Because the resulting analog signal is highly sensitive, the process must be tightly controlled by a low-jitter clock.



SEPARATE



SEPARATE DIGITAL AND ANALOG POWER SUPPLIES

For optimal performance, the DAC chip needs an exceptionally clean digital power supply. Noise in this supply can introduce jitter, noise, and distortion, while poor routing of the digital power or ground paths can allow digital noise to enter the analog circuits.

The digital power supply therefore comes from a separate, tightly regulated, and well-filtered source. The DAC also requires a high-quality analog power supply, because the analog signal is weakest as it enters and exits the DAC; any added noise or distortion at this point will be amplified by later stages. For this reason, the BCD-3 2.0 uses a separate, heavily regulated, and filtered analog supply with carefully routed grounds. **This attention to power-supply design is one of the reasons the Bryston BCD-3 2.0 CD Player delivers superior sound.**



CLASS A



DISCRETE CLASS-A ANALOG STAGE

Optimizing the digital side is only the beginning. Once the signal leaves the DAC, operational amplifiers buffer it and increase its strength. **In the BCD-3 2.0, these amplifiers are built from discrete components - transistors, resistors, and capacitors - rather than integrated circuits.**

This approach lets the circuit be tailored precisely to the DAC's needs, while integrated circuits often require compromises because they are designed for general-purpose use. Discrete components also support more powerful output stages because heat from the output driver transistors is kept away from the rest of the circuitry. In an integrated operational amplifier, that heat can affect nearby circuits because everything is contained on a single chip.



DISCRETE DEVICES



- Discrete devices also allow key characteristics, such as input and output impedance, to be matched precisely to the circuit's requirements.
- Discrete operational amplifiers can also be designed to work more closely with their power source, helping reduce distortion and noise.
- Discrete devices can be carefully tested, matched, and selected to meet tight tolerances when a design demands specific performance. Circuits are often engineered around closely matched components to achieve the best results.
- Integrated circuits contain many components on a single chip, making it impractical to sort device characteristics beyond a broad level. Bryston sorts and grades its DAC chips, but discrete devices allow much finer matching, which contributes to better sound quality.



HAND ASSEMBLED



Bryston hand-assembles and individually tests every product it makes. We use only premium components, including 1% metal-film resistors, polystyrene capacitors, and hand-selected, matched transistors, to keep noise and distortion to an absolute minimum.

Bryston uses advanced techniques and custom materials more commonly found in military and aerospace applications. Our commitment to proprietary parts, refined construction methods, and rigorous testing helps ensure your CD Player will perform reliably for years while minimizing the unit-to-unit variation often found in mass-produced products.

PERFORMANCE WITHOUT COMPROMISE:

Today's recordings offer greater clarity and dynamic range than ever, demanding equipment that not only meets but exceeds the requirements of the most challenging material. The Bryston BCD-3 2.0 CD Player is engineered to meet that challenge without compromise.



DIGITAL INPUT ?



Why no Digital Input on the BCD-3 2.0 CD Player

The all-in-one CD player does not rely on S/PDIF to transfer data and clock signals. Instead, it operates as a synchronous system, making jitter virtually nonexistent.

In an all-in-one CD player, the drive can be clocked directly to the DAC. Because the signal is known to be 44.1 kHz/16-bit, jitter can be minimized. The same clock that retrieves data from the CD also governs digital-to-analog conversion, eliminating discrepancies between the master clock and its derived signals.

In this respect, the CD player has a clear advantage.

A digital input would require the player to accept unknown incoming signals, which would need to be re-clocked and resampled. For this reason, the Bryston CD player excludes digital inputs, preserving the benefits of direct clocking and keeping the clock in close proximity to the DAC.



www.bryston.com



FEATURES & OPTIONS

Features

- Redbook CD player
- Balanced XLR and single ended RCA output
- Digital out via AES/EBU or S/PDIF RCA
- 8 times oversampling
- Network connectivity for firmware updates
- Control via web UI
- RS232 / IR support
- Rugged metal CD tray with support rails
- Large clear OLED display
- New 2U Chassis
- Steel Chassis - low RF
- Hand Held Remote

Options

- Consumer faceplate
- PRO faceplate with rackmount holes



Q & A

What brand and type of CD drive was used for the BCD-3 2.0?

The drive is the metal version of the Stream Unlimited Blue Tiger drive.

Did bryston do any modifications to the drive itself?

NO changes.

Is the signal altered and is the full capacity of the AKM DAC's used?

**We do not alter the signal other than what the chip does natively. Sampling frequency is 44.1/16 BIT (CD Standard)
We are using the AKM DAC's at 44.1/16BIT even though we realize they are capable of 192/32BIT**

Why did Bryston not include SACD and HD-CD formats?

We did not include SCAD because it requires a Blu-ray or video capable drive which requires a completely different approach to processing the digital signal - not Redbook.



Q & A

Why Redbook CD?

Bryston wanted the Bryston CD Player to be dedicated to 'CD REDBOOK NATIVE' playback first and foremost. So we wanted a drive that was natively clocked to 44.1/16BIT so no conversion is necessary like in DVD drives that sample at much higher rates. It's as pure a native CD signal as you can get.

Most of the CD's out there are REDBOOK versions and optimizing that playback was our ultimate goal with the BCD-3 2.0



the absolute sound

Editors' Choice

"I began this review process wondering if a player like the BCD-3 is even relevant in today's digital world.

I discovered, to my surprise, that it is. My next discovery was just how good the BCD-3 sounds, and how much of an improvement it represents over even excellent last-generation CD players. Then, the Bryston went toe-to-toe with one of the best CD players available - without embarrassing itself in the least...Put this together and you really do have what could be your last CD player.

The BCD-3's single-minded design and functionality delivers CD performance that doesn't come along every day. And, as we've seen with the BCD-1, there's no guarantee such a player will be here tomorrow.

If I were choosing a CD player that wouldn't break the bank but was unflinching in its musical and sonic generosity, the BCD-3 would be at the top of my list."

Alan Taffle

FEATURES



BRYSTON BCD-3 2.0 CD Player

The Bryston BCD-3 2.0 is a state-of-the-art Redbook CD player using fully discrete analog Class-A proprietary Bryston circuits, a quality Drive and 384K/32Bit AKM DAC's.

FEATURES:

- Redbook CD and CDR playback
- Two AKM 4490 384/32Bit DAC's
- Fully Discrete Bryston Class A analog output stage
- Independent Analog and Digital power supplies
- Balanced XLR and Unbalanced RCA Stereo outputs.
- Transformer coupled SPDIF and AES EBU Digital outputs.
- Ethernet software upgrade
- Network connectivity
- Remote 12 Volt Trigger
- Full function IR remote control
- Cosmetically matches Cubed 2.0 Series Amplifiers



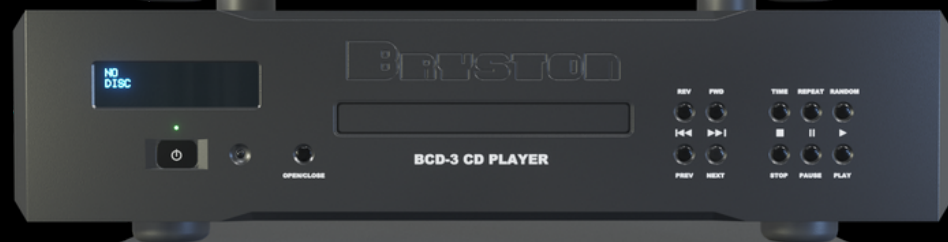
COLOURS AVAILABLE



CHAMPAGNE



WHITE



GUN METAL



BLACK



SILVER



SPECIFICATIONS

Weight	8.5 lbs 4 kg
Frequency Response:	20Hz - 20kHz: ± 0.1 dB
THD+N (20Hz-20kHz):	<0.002%
Voltage Output:	XLR: 4V RCA: 2V
Noise:	RCA: -134dB
	XLR: -140dB



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