

# The Evolution of the World's Best DACs



QBD76



QuteHD



Hugo



HugoTT



2Qute

## QBD76

For over twenty years Chord Electronics has been making some of the world's most innovative DACs. Not content with off-the-shelf DAC chips, Chord engineers developed their own proprietary pulse-array FPGA (programmable) DAC, the legendary DAC64, a Stereophile magazine A+ Recommended Component. Chord's second-generation FPGA DAC, the \$8,000 QBD76 HDSB, was able to recreate a delicate signal down to a remarkable -150dB accuracy and redefined DAC performance.

## QuteHD

In 2012, this same state-of-the-art technology was made available in Chord's \$1,795 QuteHD DAC. The performance of this groundbreaking device astounded the world's press: the QuteHD was favorably compared to the finest DACs in the world including those from dCS, Esoteric and EMM Labs. With Chord's breakthrough proprietary DAC technology, the QuteHD received dozens of accolades, best-in-class awards and tremendous reviews like:

***"Competitive with top flight CD players from Esoteric, dCS, Accuphase and EMM Labs, this DAC goes head to head and matches them on most scores... an absolutely stunning result for the QuteHD. I am wildly enthusiastic about this DAC!"***

- Phil Gold, enjoythemusic, December 2012

## Hugo

The Hugo, released in early 2014, further extended Chord's groundbreaking DAC technology and has become a revolutionary product that has set the standard by which all DACs are measured. By year's end the Hugo had been recognized with over 40 glowing reviews from just about every audio hardware-reviewing entity in the world.

According to Chord founder John Franks, "We were shocked by the off-the-chart Hugo sales. Thousands of people purchased Hugo to use as the main DAC in their home systems – many of which contain price no object components." Why would so many people buy a \$2,500 DAC to use in their world-class reference systems?

**It's not just another DAC - it's a Chord.**

Read the full story at [www.bluebirdmusic.com/hugo](http://www.bluebirdmusic.com/hugo)

Simple: because after careful evaluation they concluded Hugo delivered the very best sound, and that's all that really matters.

## HugoTT

In January 2015 Chord Electronics introduced the new Hugo TT (\$4,795), the most sophisticated DAC they've ever made and one which takes Hugo performance up yet another level and adds functionality and connectivity.

The new Hugo TT offers numerous improvements over Hugo and a substantial improvement in sound quality. Larger batteries and new super capacitors give the Hugo TT more power, galvanic isolation on the USB input completely eliminates jitter, increased Class A bias reduces distortion, plus the Hugo TT is now a balanced design. As a result, the Hugo TT has more power, better dynamics, greater dynamic headroom, a smoother, more natural sound and better soundstage recreation.

Ease of use is improved by a new front-mounted input selector, cross-feed selector, power on/off switch, LED display of selected input, retention of selected input after power down, better accommodation of audio cables, a full function remote control and new single ended and balanced outputs. Apt-X Bluetooth range is increased to 150' and a 75ohm coaxial input has been added. Finally, Hugo TT is built to last with a beautifully machined solid aluminum case and a 15 – 20 year battery life.

## 2Qute

The 2Qute, introduced March 2015, is a Hugo DAC in a Chordette chassis. For those who want the best-sounding DAC for their home system the new 2Qute (\$1,795) is undeniably the best choice. Enhanced RF filtering plus an extra stage of voltage regulation enable the 2Qute to deliver the same performance levels as the Hugo despite being AC powered.

Is the 2Qute the world's "best" DAC? – we'll leave that for you to decide – but, endowed with all of Chord's trademark FPGA DAC technology, it is irrefutably the world's best buy in state-of-the-art high-performance DACs.

