



iFi ZEN Blue 3 Hi-res Bluetooth DAC: the World's First Lossless Audio Receiver & Transmitter



iFi Audio, a trailblazer in high-fidelity audio components, has revealed the ZEN Blue 3 hi-resolution Bluetooth DAC. By merging wireless connectivity with lossless CD quality audio transmission and audiophile-grade circuitry, ZEN Blue 3 offers a true audiophile-grade Bluetooth experience for your Hi-Fi system.

New to the ZEN Blue 3 is three new operation modes including Bluetooth RX, TX, and DAC, while also featuring aptX Lossless Bluetooth codec to receive or transmit Lossless CD-quality and Hi-Res audio over Bluetooth and a switchable low-latency mode.

World's First Lossless Innovation



The ZEN Blue 3 is the world's first DAC wirelessly receive and transmit Lossless Bluetooth audio. It delivers exceptional hi-res wireless audio, courtesy of Qualcomm's QCC518x Bluetooth audio chip and the aptX Lossless codec.

Offering a maximum bitrate of 1,200kbps, aptX Lossless is the first and only Bluetooth codec currently capable of wirelessly sending and receiving CD-quality audio without losing data during compression. If your smartphone supports aptX Lossless, this means you can stream high-quality lossless music from your device to your hi-fi system.



The ZEN Blue 3's extensive backwards compatibility ensures that all current major Bluetooth codecs are supported: aptX Lossless, LDAC™, LHDC/HWA, aptX Adaptive, aptX, AAC and SBC.

Forging New Connections.

In an increasingly wireless world, high resolution Bluetooth headphones and TWS (True Wireless Stereo) earbuds are an essential for audio enthusiasts. However, the need for a Bluetooth connection can often make them incompatible with your home audio setup.

The ZEN Blue 3 boasts Bluetooth transmission in all supported codecs, including CD-quality aptX Lossless, and also wired connection through USB-C, SPDIF or even analogue RCA. This means you can connect your ZEN Blue 3 to your audio source like a laptop, mobile or TV and introduce your favourite Bluetooth headphones or earbuds to the rest of your audio world.

Whether it's a late-night vinyl session without the speakers, enjoying your aptX Lossless earbuds while working on your laptop, or marathoning your favourite Netflix series, the ZEN Blue 3 offers new opportunities for listening enjoyment.

Versatility Breeds Possibility.

Leveraging the capabilities of the Qualcomm QCC518x chipset paired with a dedicated ESS Sabre DAC and Hi-Fi circuitry, the ZEN Blue 3 outperforms most Bluetooth transmitters and receivers.

The ZEN Blue 3 is also able to function as a fully wired DAC, offering 96kHz/24Bit audio via USB-C, or 192kHz/24Bit audio via SPDIF, which can be output via 4.4 balanced or RCA analogue outputs. The ZEN Blue 3 is more versatile than ever, with three new function modes to suit any listener. These modes include:

- RX mode which receives Bluetooth from a source device
- TX mode which transmits Bluetooth to a device
- Wired DAC mode

ZEN Blue 3 can now act as a traditional wired DAC via USB-C or S/PDIF inputs. ZEN Blue 3 has true audiophile-grade, Hi-Fi circuitry and is not just a System on a Chip solution by using separate Bluetooth, DAC and Op-Amp chips for superior sound.

RX mode receives Bluetooth signal from a source device, letting you to stream lossless music from your smartphone, laptop or PC to your hi-fi system with ease. The ZEN Blue 3 forms the ideal connection between the two ensuring that the emotion and detail within hi-res audio files is retained and experience to the fullest.





Switchable Low Latency

Whether you're getting lost in a great movie or immersing yourself in your favourite video game, few things take you out of the moment quite like a delay in the audio.

For those using the ZEN Blue 3 in transmission mode for watching video content or gaming, there is a Low Latency button on the front of the unit. Using the ZEN Blue 3's Low Latency mode, the time taken to send and receive audio is drastically reduced. When your eyes see it, your ears hear it – putting you right back in the moment, where you belong.

Perfect for intense gaming sessions or relaxing movie nights, low latency mode resolves the delay issue between the video and audio, meaning audio is in sync with video content.

Balance in All Things.

With so many Hi-Res audio options available to the ZEN Blue 3, making balanced circuitry available to listeners is vital. By including a balanced line output, users with a balanced audio setup can benefit from significantly reduced signal noise and crosstalk between channels, bringing all the clarity with none of the audio clutter or distortion.

Performance can be further enhanced with the optional SilentPower iPower2 power supply, featuring proprietary Active Noise Cancellation II technology.

Superior Components

Underpinning the circuitry are cherry-picked, premium components from TDK, and Texas Instruments. The amplification stage boasts iFi/AMR's own 'OV' (Operationsverstärker) series op-amps, outperforming commercial chips that use low-grade copper and inexpensive aluminium bond-wire.

Pricing & Availability

The iFi ZEN Blue 3 is available to purchase from 9th July at ifi-audio.com for £299 / \$299 / CA\$299 / AU\$299 / €299.

General Specification



Inputs		
Digital	RX mode TX mode DAC mode	Bluetooth 5.4 USB, Optical, Coaxial USB, Optical, Coaxial
Analogue	RX mode TX mode DAC mode	- RCA RCA
Outputs		
Digital	RX mode TX mode DAC mode	Optical, Coaxial Bluetooth 5.4 Optical, Coaxial
Analogue	RX mode TX mode DAC mode	RCA, 4.4mm Balanced - RCA, 4.4mm Balanced
Maximum Sampling Rates		
RX mode TX mode DAC mode	USB S/PDIF	96kHz/24-Bit 96kHz/24-Bit 96kHz/24-Bit 192kHz/24-Bit
SNR		109dB
DNR		109dBA (0dBFS @ 1kHz)
THD+N		<0.005% (10K load @ 20-20kHz)
Dimensions		158 x 115 x 35mm (6.2 x 4.5 x 1.4")
Net Weight		447g (0.99 lbs)
Limited Warranty		12 months*