## The story of two Sirius DACs and a Lampi shootout

I have been a real DAC-O-MANIAC the last couple of years . After purchasing and evaluating a number of great sounding DACs (for instance, Lampizator Level 6, Metrum Pavane Mk3, Sonnet Audio Morpheus) and a number of other DACs using off the shelf DAC chips, I came to the conclusion that: I prefer a DAC using NOS (Non-Oversampling) R2R converter type over any DAC with Delta Sigma converter type. It just feels more natural and musical! I also like very much what tubes in the output stage adds to the experience, hard to define, but it just brings a bit of "magic" to the sound. So, with that in mind, I decided that I will not purchase any more DACs unless they have both of those ingredients.



My first Sirus DAC!

A friend of mine have the Lampizator Level 7 Dual Chassie , using a pair of 300B DHT tubes in the output stage , and I always liked the sound from that , so I started looking for a Lampizator DAC , when another friend just by accident asked me if I ever checked out the Veridian Utopia Sirius DAC . Never heard of it I said, but I searched on internet and found the website, and I also started to read on my neighboring country 's , (Norway) , Hifi Forum . I found a lot of interesting readings from users that praised the Sirius DAC , also comparing it with much more expensive DACs such as Audio Note . I contacted Ondrej , the man behind Veridian Utopia , asked a lot of questions and got a lot of good answers back immidately. After many emails and discussions on what I wanted, we ended up with a Sirus DAC, single ended , with just USB input ( as I only use one source for streaming and my music collection, at that time , a SOTM SMS-200 Neo with USB output, ROON for music handling. ) . Many options were recommeded by Ondrej , and I went for capacitor upgrades in the digital section , a number of chokes for most silent background , a gain switch so that it could easily match different amplifiers etc. With a price about 3-4 times less than a new Lampizator DAC, it was an easy decision to make .At the time, I used a Line Magnetic LM845IA amplifier connected to my Usher 8570 Be speakers .

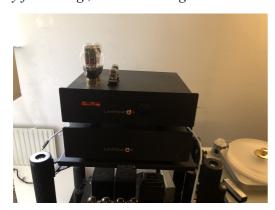
After receiving the DAC and adding some of my favourite NOS tubes and letting the DAC play for a week, I did some serious listening. Wow, it sounded very much like my previous Lampizator level 6, but more detailed, better bass definition and more prescence of voices. So far, this was without doubt the best sounding and most musical DAC I had ever tried. I enjoyed the DAC for some months and thought about next step to upgrade my system, and I considered to use my LM845IA as a pure power amplifer, bypassing the preamp section, as it is probably the weak point. I had a DIY resistor ladder volume control at home, and connected that between the Sirius and the LM845IA, ansd yes, small improvement in clarity and better soundstage! I knew that Ondrej also offered the Sirus with a built in remote controlled resistor ladder volume control, so, I contacted him again, and soon I ordered my second Sirus DAC from Ondrej!

After receiving the new Sirus DAC with remote controlled volume, I was a happy camper! I also sold the Line Magnetic amplifier and bouth a pair of Cayin 9084D Monoblocks, using 300B with 845 output tubes, which also made a big step up in sound quality in my room.

My friend having the Lampizaor level 7 visited me and was very impressed. He suggested that we do a DAC Shootout (comparison) at his home with his gear .So, we did, listening to his great setup with DeVore 96 Orangutan Speakers, Air Tight ATM-S1 amplifer, SOTM streaming via ROON. Both DACs were using their built in resistor ladder typ volume controls. We were 3 Hifi pals in the room, and after listening to both DACs, the comments on the Sirus DAC were "it is very very similar, it has the same PRAT as the Lampi, it has great bass definition, wow, it has more quite background "etc. We listened for several hours, and both DACs offered a very lifelike and musical expereince. My feeling was that the Lampi had a slight edge in "magic" probably by using the 300B tubes in the output stage. But the difference was subtle, and with the cost difference in mind, I actually did not care.



My friends rig, with interesting sound treatment, including a fire extinguisher!





The mighty Lampi Level 7

and the Sirius!

Now, I am enjoyng music more then ever before, and I am very curious on what Ondrej have up his sleeve for the future .



My current rig with my second Veridian Utopia Sirius DAC (now with volume control included)