



## EMM Labs TSD-1 and DAC-2 digital playback system

Just briefly here: Ed Meitner isn't the only designer who has been busy improving the design of his products. He has gone through several upgrades to his basic CD playback systems recently. And the latest one is significant since it incorporates a breakthrough in the reproduction of Red Book CDs.

In the new TSD/DAC combo Meitner says he has been able to remove all the "jitter" from CD playback. This allows us, or rather allowed me, to hear what jitter does to digital sound. Given the ubiquity of jitter in all CD players, it is impossible to isolate its contribution in playback. But, after long listening I see/hear that jitter contributes a haze composed of high-frequency grain (a subtle sandy textured noise), and there is a concurrent reduction of ambient information, especially that surrounding the very highest transient overtones of stringed and percussive instruments. You might hear this as opening up the top octaves, and, upon longer listens, an added dimensionality further down the frequency spectrum.

He also has a new drive mechanism for the TSD player section of the system, made in Austria by DAIsy Corporation, replacing the breakdown-prone Philips that caused him and the company so much grief. Nowadays, if you put a CD or SACD into the player, it stays in the tray and doesn't jam the mechanism. The whole thing looks better, sounds better, and is better.

**Price: TSD drive, \$11,000; DAC-2 converter, \$9599.**  
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