For immediate distribution:

Unified Firmware 5.2

Limoncello

Southport, UK – 13th May 2016

Latest Unified Firmware v5.2 'Limoncello'

The very latest in-house firmware[1] version 5.2 for **ALL** iFi products[2] is available. It is very similar to Gelato v5.1 but there some nice, minor improvements:

  i.   Minor code optimisation.
  ii. Fixed issues surrounding DoP standard; including 'clicks' when changing tracks and sonic differences to native DSD.

As before, for customers with particular requirements, there are two firmware sub-versions:

2) For nano iDSD and micro iDAC2 v5.2A - Enables DOP256 operation

- This enables DSD256(DoP) operation, which requires 768kHz PCM at the USB interface level.
- Nano iDSD and micro iDAC2 CANNOT decode 768kHz at the DAC level, but they can all be programmed to receive 768kHz PCM at the USB interface level hence enable DSD256(DoP).
- With 5.2A, the user MUST make sure to manually alter the PCM audio settings correctly (especially Mac), otherwise there will be no audio output at all.
- In other words, when playing PCM files, the sample rate must NOT set to be higher than 384kHz. Only set the sampling rate to 768kHz when one wants to play DSD256(DoP).
- There is no need to use this firmware if one uses 'native mode' (not DoP) to play DSD or if DSD files are not played at all.
- Do NOT use 5.2A on any other products other than nano iDSD and micro iDAC2.

3) For iDSD micro Firmware v5.2B - Disable Sleep Mode (Smartphone users ONLY)

- This is strictly for Smartphone users ONLY, there is no other reason to use 5.2B on the micro iDSD.

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[1] WARNING: Do NOT flash non-iFi products on the XMOS platform with iFi firmware!

[2] iFi Native DSD-capable DACs so original iDAC excluded so do NOT update using v5.10.

- The micro iDSD micro will try to recharge while in Sleep Mode (e.g. when connected to a PC). If connected to a Smartphone which is 'seen' as a computer, it will recharge via the Smartphone.

- 5.2B disables the Sleep Mode within the micro iDSD; hence it will no longer try to recharge during Sleep Mode and flatten the Smartphone's battery.

- Do NOT use 5.2B on any other products other than micro iDSD.

For detailed instructions and the download files, please follow this link:

http://ifi-audio.com/downloads/

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[1]Background. The DSD DoP Evolution

DoP DSD is known for inherently creating noise when switching between PCM and DSD-DoP tracks and back. This problem has been addressed at the source by *some* but not all playback software - hence, much available software when playing DSD, struggles.

So we at iFi have taken it upon ourselves to think 'outside of the (PC) box' to resolve this *upstream* issue at the *downstream* firmware level for all our DSD capable devices. In a process that took over a year, we have resolved the many areas where the differences between DSD-DoP and PCM make switching an annoyance.

Additionally, DoP is often cited as offering a lower sound quality. By adjusting core code and the clocking system in the firmware, this point is now moot – as we eliminated the hit on processor utilisation by DoP vs. native DSD playback.

So choose native DSD or DoP-DSD with the confidence that either will deliver the same great DSD sound quality and user experience. Just like DSD and PCM, we like one as much as the other.

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