

DVD32FLR

the front loading DVD32R



"The pictures I've seen with this DVI equipped player are some of the sharpest I've seen from any DVD player, and in some cases looked darn close to high-definition. So, if your display device offers a DVI input, then you owe it to yourself to audition the TAG McLaren DVD32FLR in your system and see the improvements that DVI has to offer."

Widescreen Review - June 2003

"In conclusion, the DVD32FLR is a stupendous performer. Pictures via the DVI output must be seen to be believed, while multichannel DVD and CD audio are both sublime...If you can afford the whopping asking price, you're buying straight into home cinema heaven."

What Video - June 2003

The DVD32R has earned itself a reputation as one of the best performing DVD players money can buy, and the first DVD player to truly offer no-compromise, top class CD replay. However, the top loading construction of DVD32R does not suit all installations. And let's be honest - its performance comes at a price that does not suit all wallets!

Ever since launching DVD32R to widespread acclaim, the team at TAG McLaren have been pursuing an elusive goal: to get close to the performance of the DVD32R, but from a front loading design. At first it did not seem possible, but gradually the pieces came together...

and now it is here: the DVD32FLR

DVD Player DVD32FLR

...almost a DVD32R!



The DVD32FLR uses the DVD32R's power supply circuitry and main printed circuit board, with a front loading DVD mechanism.

From the outset it was clear that a similar performance could only be reached if we could re-use the DVD32R's proven electronics, but linked to a front loading DVD mechanism.

However, the DVD32R is an extremely compact design, bearing in mind that it includes a heavy, lead-weighted, suspended DVD transport mechanism, hence the height had to increase to add the front loading DVD mechanism above the DVD32R's main printed circuit board.



"If ever a DVD transport suggested 'reference quality', even at a time when the format is in turmoil thanks to DVD-Audio, Blue Laser and other distractions, it's this one. (And, I grudgingly admit, its top-loading sister.) So, despite its almost clinical mien, I have to describe the TAG with a truly apt, non-technical German word: zauberhaft [magical]."

Hi-Fi News - June 2003

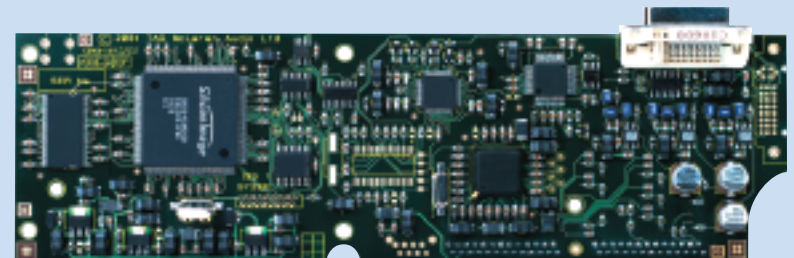


The future built in! Progressive Scan Option - and more!

Just like the DVD32R, the DVD32FLR continues TAG McLaren's tradition of protecting their customers' investment with upgradability other manufacturers can only dream of. The DVD32FLR can already be upgraded to accept the stunning Progressive Scan Module PSM192, providing top class, motion-adaptive analog and digital progressive scan output from PAL and NTSC DVDs - but also generating progressive scan output from all your S-Video and Composite video sources.

And when DVD-Audio and HDMI upgrades become available for the DVD32R, they will automatically suit the DVD32FLR as well.

That's a promise!



Is it really as good as the DVD32R?

...no, of course not, but it is very close!

DVD32R the Titleholder!

It has been known for many years that for best the CD reproduction an isolated transport mechanism is required. A suspended top loading arrangement, as used in the DVD32R, is a perfect solution to minimise jitter and hence to improve sound quality. This is true for CD and DVD alike...



DVD32R

As far as we know, the DVD32R is the world's only top loading DVD player using a suspended, lead weighted sub-chassis for near perfect decoupling. It is also the only one offering a Synchronisation Link to lock the DVD player's clock to the master clock in the av processor⁽¹⁾.

There is a simple reason for this exclusivity: it is extremely difficult to do, a fact demonstrated in the high cost.

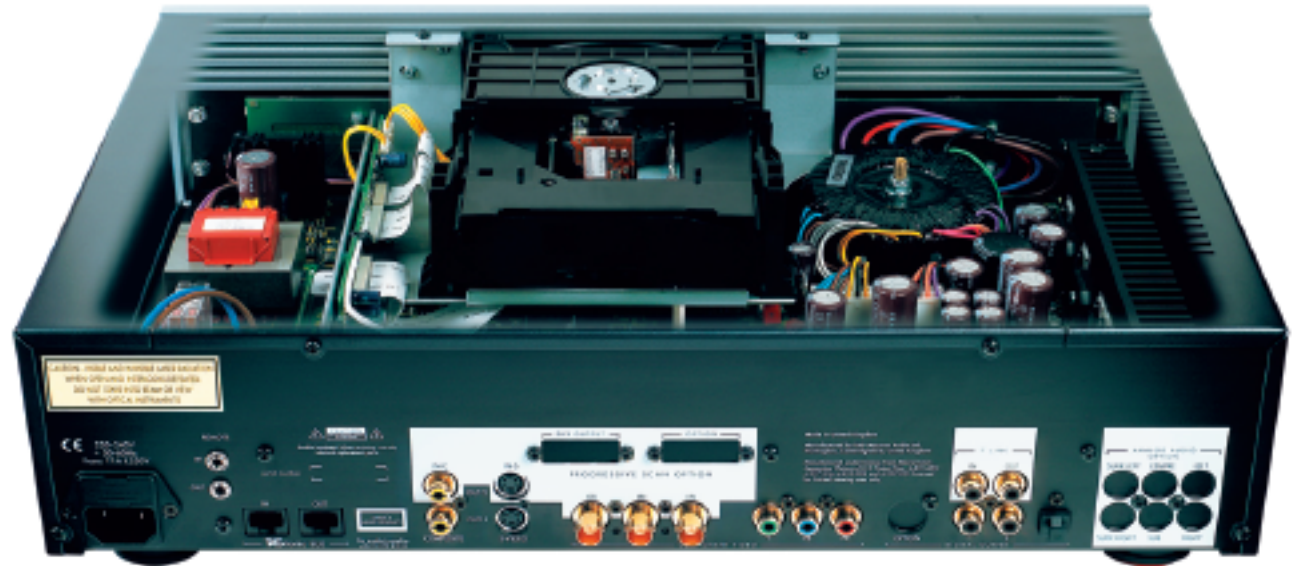
A premium well worth paying, when ultimate sound and picture quality are demanded, but as always in life, there is the law of 'diminishing returns', therefore our engineers were keenly interested to see just how close they would get to the ultimate performance of the DVD32R...

DVD32FLR: Vault-like mechanical construction

One of the keys to the DVD32R's performance is, as we have already explained, its mechanical construction. Mechanical stability is an essential element in getting the best from any disc transport, so the DVD32FLR would have to be as solid as they come.

The vault-like construction of the player starts with its ultra-rigid front panel. The panel is machined from a 17 mm thick custom aluminium extrusion, deeply finned for maximum rigidity. The player's rigid, folded chassis bolts directly to the front panel, creating a very stiff assembly. The loader mechanism itself is carried on a separate sub-chassis which is in turn bolted to both the chassis and the front panel, further increasing the rigidity of the player. Finally, the lid fits snugly into the front panel extrusion and is bolted to the chassis at the rear.

The entire construction weighs in at a substantial 8.85 kg and rests on TAG McLaren's custom made Sorbothane mounting feet for vibration isolation.



DVD32FLR

1. This feature was carried over to the DVD32FLR

DVD32FLR: on the test bench



DVD32FLR and AV32R

With the electronics and software of the DVD32R and a mechanical construction that would survive almost any earthquake, the DVD32FLR has got as close as possible to the DVD32R's construction whilst using a front loading DVD mechanism and therefore being of lower cost.

Not surprisingly, there were only minor differences when comparing the measurements of both products - an often made observation when it comes to the very best of audio and audio-visual equipment - so extended listening and visual tests had to be carried out with an end result that surprised even our sound and picture assessment team (the Golden Ears and Eyes), their findings are opposite.

LISTENING AND VISUAL TESTS	DVD32R	DVD32FLR
CD replay with TAG Sync Link	100%	92%
CD replay without TAG Sync Link		86%
DVD replay with TAG Sync Link		96%
Sound		
Picture	94%	
DVD replay without TAG Sync Link		98%
Sound		
Picture		

All results are referenced to the DVD32R. For example, a score of 93% means that the DVD32FLR achieves in that category 93% of the DVD32R's performance. Each category is normalised, hence different categories can't be compared with each other.

Of course, these are subjective results, which might vary from observer to observer, depending on their personal preferences.

All in all, we can conclude that the DVD32FLR's heritage has resulted in a tour de force in front-loading DVD and CD replay! The DVD32R has finally found a genuine rival!

Performance and Formats:

- Compatible with DVD-Video and CD Music (8 and 12cm)
- PCM, Dolby Digital, MPEG, DTS
- digital output at 44.1, 48 and 96 kHz with 16, 20 or 24 bits
- Native support of NTSC-M, PAL-B/D/G/H/I and PAL M
- Composite, S-Video and Component outputs for best video quality
- Very low jitter clock re-times the SPDIF audio data
- TAGtronic Synchronisation Link T²L to lock the master clock to the AV32R

Construction

- Rigid custom extruded front panel with internal sub-chassis supporting loader mechanism
- Mixed technology construction
- Multi-layer printed circuit board for best signal to noise ratio
- High-quality controls, surfaces and fascia for life-long perfection
- Extensive vibration damping of chassis panels
- Sorbothane mounting feet for best vibration isolation

Key Building Blocks

- Dual Laser enabling better CD-R/RW playback and more reliability. Most DVD-R can also be read
- Mediamatics Pantera-DVD™ 32bit RISC processor for best audio and video quality
- Siemens 16-bit microcontroller for most comprehensive user interface
- Stable multi-frequency internal clocks
- Massive round-core transformer
- Twelve independent stable power supplies
- Premium-grade analog components
- Broadcast-quality video components

In and Outputs

- Two composite outputs⁽¹⁾ @1.0 Vp-p (75 Ohm, neg. sync.)
- Two⁽¹⁾ S-Video outputs
 - Y-signal: 1.0 Vp-p (75Ohm, neg. sync.)
 - C-signal: NTSC: 286 mVp-p (75 Ohm)
 - PAL: 300 mVp-p (75 Ohm)
- Two⁽²⁾ Component video outputs, one with RCA, the other with BNC connectors
 - Y: 1.0 Vp-p (75 Ohm load, 300mV sync.)
 - Pb: 700 mVp-p (75 Ohm load)
 - Pr: 700 mVp-p (75 Ohm load)
- Three digital audio outputs (two coaxial SPDIF and one optical)
 - IEC958 output level: 0.5V p-p
 - TOSLINK output level: -18dBm (wavelength 660nm)
- Enhanced TAGtronic Communication Bus
- TAGtronic Synchronisation Link T²L
- Two inputs for cable based IR distribution systems

Ease of Use

- Unique Setup Wizard lets you forget printed user manuals
- Fully remote controlled
- Delivered with a backlit, learning remote
- User configurable auto-standby function
- TAGtronic Bus for inter-product communication and firmware upgrades

Test-Pattern Generator

- Software and hardware generated test-patterns to assist in optimising picture quality

Enhanced TAGtronic Bus Support

- Many features available, if TAGtronic Bus equipped products are connected
- Sharing of remote commands over the TAGtronic Bus allows hidden installation of AV processor and amplification
- Display of AV32R status (received via TAGtronic Bus) even on Component video

Upgrade Paths

- Firmware upgrades via the TAG McLaren Audio website
- Hardware upgrade scheduled for DVD-Audio and HDMI
- Progressive Scan Module PSM192 available for analog and digital (DVI 1.0) progressive scan output from DVD and from external S-video and composite video sources, all NTSC, PAL and SECAM formats supported.

Physical Dimensions

- 445 x 111 x 311 mm (WHD including feet & connectors)
- Weight approx. 8.85 kg

We reserve the right to alter design and specification without notice.

Specification may vary for different countries.

1. One of the outputs becomes an input when the optional Progressive Scan Module PSM192 is fitted back
2. The BNC component output connections are used for progressive scan signals when the optional Progressive Scan Module PSM192 is fitted back

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