



Marantz

ND8006 £1,099



With every feature going – including streaming and a DAC – is this versatile digital music hub compromised?

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Marantz ND8006

ORIGIN
Japan

TYPE
CD player/
DAC/streamer

WEIGHT
8kg

DIMENSIONS
(WxHxD)
440 x 106 x 341mm

FEATURES
• 32-bit/192kHz
PCM and DSD256-
capable DAC
• Digital inputs:
1x USB-B; 2x optical;
1x coaxial
• Digital outputs:
1x optical; 1x coaxial
• Analogue outputs:
2x stereo RCAs
• Heos wireless
streaming

DISTRIBUTOR
D&M Audiovisual Ltd.

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WEBSITE
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While the Cyrus makes no concessions to modernity and the Denon does so through the back door, Marantz's ND8006 heartily embraces today's world with both arms. It plays a multitude of music media including CD, CD-R/RW (MP3/WMA), AirPlay 2 and Bluetooth, as well as streaming internet radio or from your home NAS drive, Spotify Connect, Amazon Music, Tidal, Deezer and more. There's also full DAC functionality with multiple inputs, so it integrates a host of other digital sources too. In other words, Marantz has shoehorned its former NA8005 streamer and SA8005 (HFC 390) silver disc player together into one box. The only notable omission is the lack of SACD playback, which won't be an issue for most people.

All this functionality means that Marantz has slightly skimmed on the build; although its main casework is impressively finished and swish looking. Unlike the Denon, the disc tray isn't damped and the bottom of the feet are plastic rather than soft

rubber. It's packed with features, including a headphone output and large centrally mounted display. There's a double-shielded toroidal transformer, plus a thick twin-skinned baseplate. All of its many tricks are controllable via Marantz's Heos app, and the machine can work as part of a multi-room system should you wish. A lot of thought has gone into future-proofing it too, as the ND8006 accepts all file formats up to 32-bit/384kHz PCM and DSD256. All this goes through special signal processing called Marantz Musical Digital Filtering (see box).

Sound quality

In some respects the ND8006 proves to be the best of the group; it has excellent soundstaging, being able to convey the true spatial contrast between all the different strands of the mix in Felt's *Primitive Painters*, for example. There's a sense that you're looking at the recording from afar; able to stand back and clearly see everything in its true proportion; some strands near, some far. At the

MUSICAL FILTERING

Like many of the latest Marantz digital sources, the ND8006 features its unique Marantz Musical Digital Filtering (MMDF). This is crucial to sound reproduction of digital input signals. Two selectable digital filter characteristics are provided, working with the player's carefully implemented digital section, which comprises an ESS 9016 Sabre DAC with dual crystal clocks working at 32-bit/192kHz resolution – although higher rate data can be input and processed at the aforementioned resolution. For its analogue output stage, this new network DAC/CD player uses Marantz's Hyper-Dynamic Amplifier Modules (HDAMs), which are specially designed and manufactured. They are miniature amplifiers that are built from separate but optimised components. In this case, HDAM-SA2 types are specified.

same time it's very precise sounding, with loads of midband detailing – it drills deep into the texture of *Star Of Sirius*' early analogue synthesiser, and gives a lovely sparkle to the cymbals.

Feed it some punchy dance and you're left in two minds; *Good Life* demonstrates its fine handling of rhythms, aided and abetted by a chunky, driving bass, but it doesn't quite carry the dynamic shading as well as rivals. At the same time, it does ferret right down into the mix and throw out loads of inner detail that most of the others seem to gloss over. This gives it a revealing yet composed character, yet it lacks the charm of the British players and the French YBA design. Tonally it's very neutral, a more even version of the Denon with a smoother and silkier top end. Yet still things can sound a little thin and *Speak Like A Child* shows that it doesn't have the fullness of texture of some others here ●

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: Massively versatile; tidy, open sound

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: Slightly cerebral sounding

BUILD QUALITY



WE SAY: Highly impressive do-it-all CD player design

FEATURES



OVERALL

