

BEST NETWORK PLAYER

PRO-JECT STREAM BOX S2 ULTRA



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ere's a small external music streamer that we found big on ability – at a low price. Pro-Ject's Stream Box S2 Ultra costs £629 but offers a whole host of streaming services in one unit. There's no on-board DAC; it has a USB output to feed an external DAC.

Control is from a Pro-Ject Play app to gain access to subscription services like Qobuz and Tidal. It connects into a network via wi-fi or wired ethernet and can read local music servers like a PC via DLNA to play locally stored music.

Reviewer Chris Frankland said "On Ben Sidran's Broad Daylight from The Doctor Is In, my jaw hit the floor as Sidran's voice was more open with 'Detox', the bass line was fuller and more tuneful and percussion detailed. His piano runs were fluid and the instrument had body.

Next I tried Days Like This from Van Morrison. Again I was amazed to find that with Detox his vocals were more 'human', more intelligible, the horns less glaring and the bass line tighter and more tuneful. Backing vocals were better separated and the whole thing simply flowed better". A fine streamer.