

TEST: Cyrus Streamline 2 - small, but totally Large



of Roman Maier

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Streaming: The new way to manage his favorite songs is practical and offers unprecedented sound quality. This requires an appropriate network device that knows how to handle so-called Highres songs. The new Cyrus Streamline 2 is one such device that also comfort and sound quality promises for the British manufacturer is known worldwide. We have loaded the small all-rounder for test ...



Thanks ultra-compact housing dimensions can be the little Cyrus trades almost to carry her.

Cyrus heard for more than 30 years, the most respected hi-fi manufacturers worldwide. Wishing for good reason, because the urge to constantly improve Excellent, enjoyed by the British sound specialists has always been a top priority and we quickly reputation as a manufacturer of **excellent sounding audio products** earned with an exceptionally long life. Nevertheless, based in Huntingdon British company is not to be understood as a classic conservative hi-fi manufacturer. No, because there when Cyrus belongs to philosophy to always look at the bigger addition, it was recognized at an early stage then the potential offered digital music playback. Based on the enormous know-how developed the

Cyrus engineering team in the sequence (as one of the first audio specialists) corresponding network and streaming products. Devices that quickly impressed even the most die-hard opponents digital audio technology and the British brand will let one of the leading hi-fi manufacturers in this field. In the third generation made, Cyrus offered with four currently streaming a selection of models, like no other hi-fi specialist. One of these models is the success Streamline 2, a unique all-in-one setup that has next to Network Streaming and Internet Radio also a full-fledged stereo amplifier incl. DAC has to offer. This has made us curious ...

Cyrus Streamline 2 - All-in-One Power

Coming in Cyrus typical housing form, therefore, presents the brand new Streamline 2, the latest version of the award-winning Streamline series. In this case, the design is a unique feature is probably because like any other product from Cyrus is also based on our test ceded all-in-one unit on a sturdy die-cast housing. A house which is formed under enormous pressure and made its elaborate finishing up today by hand. At the same time a housing that provides a solid platform that is characterized by its extreme stability and reduces sound vibrations damaging intrinsic and distortion to an absolute minimum. The basis is so. But as it is with the technical features of our test subjects? "Excellent", as a quick glance at the table reveals facilities. And that is no exaggeration, because in addition to three electric, two optical digital inputs and a corresponding USB port shines Cyrus hardware technology yet with a powerful stereo amplifier unit. As if that were not enough, the just 21.5 centimeters narrow Brite offers an Internet-tuner and a USB and network players. Since the latter files of WAV, FLAC, Apple Lossless, AAC, MP3, WMA and AIFF controlled and that these knows how to handle up to a sampling rate of up to 24-bit / 192kHz can be personalized with him also so-called Highres audio songs play. On a remote control, the manufacturer dispensed with in this case, however, quite deliberately, for the control of small all-rounder is done easily via a free for both iOS and Android devices offered app called "Cadence". Who does not, however, want to control via smartphone or tablet his device, Cyrus, with its optional n-remote a wirelessly communicating with the Streamline 2 commander, the display also indicates the current status of the playback device and the content of all involved music archives.



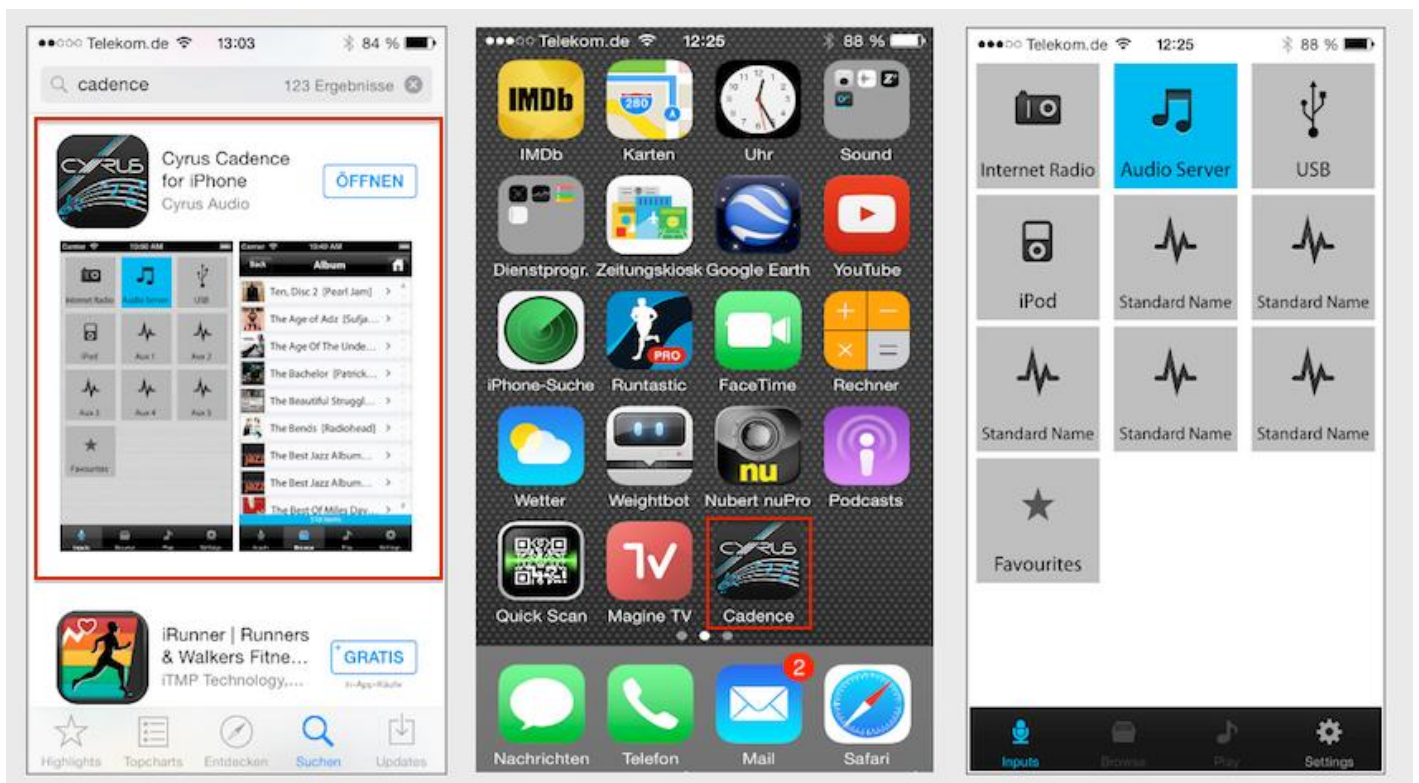
All that the hi-fi enthusiast needs: The Stream Line 2 is equipped with both analog and digital inputs. An

Ethernet port, a USB port and a wireless radio receiver complete the successful package.

Streaming, ALAC and FLAC - what is it all about?

In fact, describes the word "streaming" simultaneous viewing and playback of a corresponding audio and / or video file. This can be done this both wired and without the use of cables. Where the term "streaming" used in the world of consumer electronics, in most cases, the wireless transmission meant (as in this article). As the transmission case available today in almost all German households wireless network (WLAN) is used. Advantage: Because of this strong and very stable wireless connection is a wireless transmission even through thicker walls without any problems.

ALAC and FLAC, however, are common abbreviations for high-resolution audio formats. The focus ALAC (Apple Lossless Audio Codec) and FLAC (Free Lossless Audio Codec) files which were subjected to a lossless compression method. In detail this means that saved in these formats songs, an unequal disk space than the original, but they are still played absolutely lossless.



Cadence: The clearly arranged control app is available for free in Android and Apple Store. called with a push of a button, it offers the user the gate in an almost infinite source diversity.

Child's play: Installation

Who hitherto worry before the inclusion of a streamer in its own network was capable breathe. Easier than in this case it really is not now.

Wired involvement

. 1 Streamline 2 with electricity. . 2 Streamline 2 using the supplied network cable to the router Done

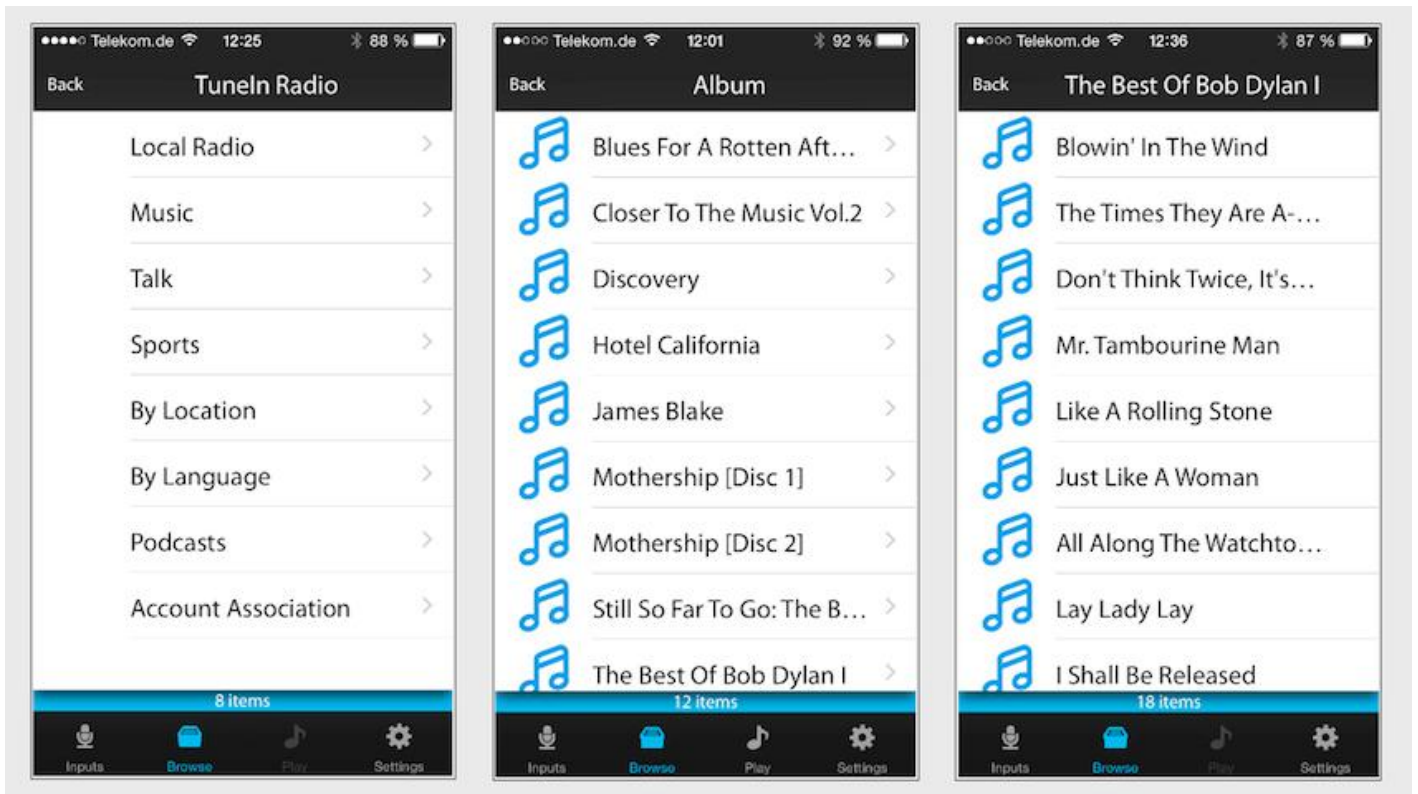
Wireless integration via WLAN to a DHCP network

. 1 WLAN antenna connect (rear). . 2 Press the menu button (on front panel).. 3 menu select "Setup". . 4 call "Network Settings" in the submenu. . 5 "DHCP network "and select" DHCP press ON. " Cyrus will now reboot and displays all available networks



6th choose my own network. . 7 Enter the password and press "OK". Finish

Once the small all-rounder Cyrus is now connected to the network, it automatically identifies located in the network music libraries, cataloged all the music files and presents have retrieved in a clear categorization.



Links: If you have selected "Internet radio" stations can be on a regional basis and also sort based genre. If, however, on a hard drive or computer stored audio files are played, pressing the corresponding menu item is sufficient. Then all available files will be displayed in a clear structure.

Very convenient: access to more than 20,000 radio stations

After our test device is now connected to the home network, we first dive into the infinite world of internet radio. Endless because we now have more than 20,000 radio stations with a blow from around the world, which can be received in a jiffy. To access this menu, pressing the Test "Radio" is sufficient. The service is now shown is enormous, but granted a the structured-structured menu at any time a complete overview of all the channels that are regionally, by genre or by content (sports, news, etc.) to sort. Navigation through the menu takes place here also be conveniently and intuitively placed on the right knob while the current status can be read on the backlit in green Cyrus typical display. Are their own favorite stations then found, they can be put in a favorites list. Alternatively, the favorite stations using the TuneIn website (www.tunein.com) store.

Comfortable: Play NAS drive

To play music files from our state of the network **NAS drive** to play, then just press the "Music" button

on the Streamline2. Once this is done, all available files will be shown on the display. On this occasion, there is then the only small point of criticism, because due to its compact size, the small LED window shows only two choices to. Of course can scroll with each movement of the grip knob clean and without delay through the menu, but here would be a cleaner solution for the future desirable. If the desired playlist or album then found the sought, allows the playback, briefly press the knob just mentioned also start, which also acts as a volume control in playback mode. By the way: If the NAS drive connected via Ethernet cable to the Cyrus, all content will also be displayed immediately - even if the Streamline 2 is not connected to the home network.



The green illuminated display is easy to read very well and provides information about the current playback status.

Brilliant: Sound quality

Despite its compact dimensions, the optically rather reserved Englishman proves to be a true all-rounder. He receives audio signals from analog and digital playback devices, from computers, the Internet, or NAS drives. The source diversity is terrific. But anyone who thinks that such trades at best average sounds good, you are wrong. And enormous, because what the little Cyrus has to offer audiophile, looking for his peers in his class. A quality that makes itself noticeable immediately when we start with the uncompressed Chris Rea song "I Don't Know What It Is But I Love It" disk in the listening test, in which the Streamline 2 immediately as a sovereign Global -Actor are recognized. Taut and alert merge the extensive instrumentation and voice in perfect harmony. A unit whose specialty it is to single

out any detail at all times clearly. Whether synthesizer, drums or vocals, each puzzle piece of illustrated here - completely and appearing as a whole - the sound image remains at all times to locate perfect. And without to put in the focus or gradually fade into the background. And all that. In an inner order and structure of simultaneous attention to detail that is preparing a new fast fun to play his favorite albums In "Faith" by Sheila Nicholls This impression is underlined then again, for the agility and playfulness that lays the compact Cyrus here the day are contagious and animate the trial jury to a significant increase of the level. Performed Hardly, immediately followed by the next surprise: Although the technical data indicating a power amplifier of comparatively small 2 x 30 watts, the Streamline 2 is now here - far above the low volume - still passionate and dynamic to the point. Mind you in our more than 40 meters square listening room - and distortion-free, sparkling clean and still with a lot of temperament. More than that, for now puts the little Briton also in terms of spatiality up a gear on it and served us a sound stage that goes slightly beyond the boundaries of the two speakers and can incidentally also recognize a certain depth. An audio presentation that can almost be visually us the small combo. Links guitar, center the distinctive voice of British singer behind the drums and bass right. Everything staggered perfect and selectively illuminated. A performance that does not interrupt the musical flow for a fraction of a second and thus raises the question of how the compact all-rounder probably suggests when it comes one or two numbers harder to the point. A question that needs to be answered first with the Nirvana anthem "Smells Like Teen Spirit". The answer is here, as given in the subsequently played Iron Maiden classic "Fear Of The Dark" quickly. Whether Coban-typical vocal screams raging guitar riffs and solo percussion insert - both songs are played in a dynamic, pulling power and charisma that just grips you and leaves a quickly forget that here "only" a compact all-rounder listens. Here, in this case reaches the term "all-rounder" a whole new meaning, because in addition to the enormous diversity reveals our source Testproband also play as a genuine all-rounder. An all-rounder who knows every genre of music in high quality audio to reproduce.



If you own a Streamline 2, a pair of speakers is only required and have the entry in sophisticated hi-fi worlds is completed ...

Conclusion

Small but a very large: the new Streamline 2, although only 21.5 inches wide, but has everything one would expect from a modern network receiver. He offers a tremendous source diversity, a variety of analog and digital inputs and can be quickly and easily used via smartphone or tablet. In short, high comfort, small footprint. More than that, because not only equipment, both technically and sonically the compact Streamline 2 is one of the greats and impresses with anytime spatial-dynamic and distortion-free even in higher level positions sound whose enthusiasm just grips you and a lot of preparing fun. So if for a compact hi-fi network receiver with high-end claim on the lookout, the Streamline 2 must necessarily have heard.

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Photos: www.lite-magazin.de