

Essence Evolve II-4K User Testimonials and 5 Star Reviews

“Having lived with the Evolve II-4K HDMI Multi-Channel DAC for a couple of months now, I can safely say it delivered some of the best sound I have experienced in my listening room. Listening from a variety of sources, including BluRay discs, movies streamed through Apple TV4K and an Amazon Fire, in every instance, with the Evolve, the sound was refined, dynamic, and balanced. For anyone with a legacy AVR, the Evolve II-4K, is a no-brainer offering a big sonic upgrade at a very reasonable price. Well done Essence!” Jeff Dunnam, Audiophile Consumer, June 2020

“I was stunned that Essence Evolve II-4K HDMI v2.0 Multi-Channel DAC (\$349) sounded so good. How good? I liked it better than sending the audio via HDMI through the Marantz and its DACs. It seemed just noticeably cleaner and more open.....” Kalman Robinson, Stereophile, June 2019

“A combo HDMI hi res audio de-embedder, low-cost, high-quality, multi-channel PCM DAC that nets you 24/192 quality from lossless (DTS MasterHD, Dolby TruHD) and LPCM multichannel or stereo audio. This Evolve II-4K gives you the ability to use virtually any Blu-ray player with any legacy or current multichannel analog preamplifier, or preamp section contained in a receiver. And the results are amazing, given the price.

The DAC performance, combined with a quality, multi-channel analog input/output preamp, rivals or exceeds what you get out of many modern pre/pros, receivers or BD players via their HDMI DAC sections. An Oppo 205's analog output did not sound any better through my AudioControl Maestro M3 analog output. And a \$3,000 receiver decoding the BD player's HDMI output sounded much more closed in than the Essence Evolve II-4K.” John Gatski, Publisher of EAN, Nov 2019

“So, I am going to be satisfied with running 5.1 channel with the Essence Evolve II-4K using the 5 Adam F5's. Actually, they sound great. With the new DAC, I find that they produce so much more clarity and separation of instruments. I can hear sound that just wasn't there without it. I rate the Essence Evolve II-4K a solid 5 out of 5 stars.” David Moench, Audiophile Consumer, March 2020

“Wow ... I am impressed! This is an amazing DAC with an uncanny ability to present individual instruments and voices within a magnificent soundstage. It's exceptionally clear, natural sounding and utterly convincing. The Evolve II-4K has rejuvenated HDMI sourced music for my stereo system. What a great product!” Bill Vandermarel, Audiophile Consumer and former CEO of Paradigm / Anthem, Jan 2022

"I purchased a used Parasound P/SP 1500 and the multi-channel sound with the Evolve II-4K is phantastic!!! It's better than the Linn I use for stereo. And much much better than the DAC of the Denon AVR".... Volker Barent, Audiophile Consumer in Germany, Jan 2025

"Yes Bob — the Evolve II-4K is exactly, not more & not less, what I need it to do. I ordered a new Sony UBP-X800m2. These two units produce music to my ears. I'm buying a second of both for backup!!! What a find at so reasonable a price." Bill Zirkle, Audiophile Consumer, June 2024

"Hi Bob, You're very correct ... I've now got fantastic audio AND video with the Evolve II-4K. 😊 Couldn't be happier!" David Mould, UK Audiophile March 2020

"Thank you Bob! It sounds wonderful, BTW. This is the best ESS DAC implementation I've heard by far, with excellent detail retrieval and smooth, refined and natural character." Terry Underwood, Audiophile Consumer March 2022

"As I opened the box I was surprised to discover a VERY high quality product, from the exchangeable power adapter to the build quality. The sound quality is wonderful, my vintage receiver really got evolved!!! I want to thank you for your kind service and a really unique and wonderful product." Oren Shive, Audiophile Consumer in Israel, Oct 2021

"The Evolve II-4K is working marvelously. When the recording is a quality one, the sound is very close to the concert hall. One can hear the bow on the strings and the breath of the singers." Jack Kyte, Audiophile Consumer, Feb 2021
