Stream Box: FLAC and other PC audio miracles

We getting a lot of reports about the readability of FLAC files. There is a lot of disinformation and misuse on the market!

FLAC is a lossless format (but still compressed) and has different amount of data which depends on the compression level, on the bit depth, resolution and also the type of music. In extreme cases a FLAC 24/192 level 0 with only 15% compression can have a maximum of 9216 kbit/s. This is not really existing in music (maybe some superrare files). For sure you can generate FLAC files by ripping your CD with compression level 0. You will get huge files from your CD, because data is only upsampled, but you don't get a better result!! Original music source is still 16 bit 44,1kHz, so we recommend to record on Level 4 to 8 which gives no real difference in sound. Most ripping programs suggest Level 5 as best compromise, but you can choose any other level (including 0-3), as long as data rate does exceed 8500 kbit/s!

Please note that 99% of all HD-music files in the internet for download are upsampled CDs and their datarate never reaches ultimate levels. Real 24/192 HD audio masters are very rare and hardly exist on the consumer market. Typically these files have datarates of around 5000 kbit/s.
Our streamers can handle 8500 kbit/s, so there should be never a real problem with playback of FLAC files.

However the most frequent problem, when our streamer does not play FLAC properly, is cover art, that exceed 500kb. To avoid this we released a

New Firmware

for Stream Box DS, Stream Box DSnet, Stream Box RS.

With this Firmware our streamers will play all FLAC files even if album cover art is larger than 500kb, but it will not show these bigger cover art! That means that file size must be reduced below 500kb and needs to be exclusively in jpg-format to be displayed. Usually a high-res cover art picture is around 130kb.

Please go to „settings" menue and „software update" to get new firmware! Free dowmload and installation!