

# STEREO STEREO

MAGAZIN FÜR HIFI • HIGH END • MUSIK



## Audiophile Toploader

B.M.C.'s cleverly designed BD-CD1 bears  
the hallmarks of its creator

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The B.M.C. is the only toploader we reviewed, so, like a record player, it belongs onto the top level of a rack. The second similarity to a record player is the belt drive, which has become somewhat legendary, since the designer Carlos Candéias sees it as essential to decouple CD drives from the jerks of the motor. Precision bearings and electronic control units remind one even further of a high-end record player. The lid has build-in notches that make it easy to lift the heavy stabilizer, and also make changing the CD a lot safer, because when you lift the stabilizer you simultaneously take out the CD without touching its surface. That is really smart. Naturally, a belt drive is a little slower when it comes to selecting a track and in this case it may as well seem a little louder, but that is no reason for criticism.

### Unique operation

Users new to B.M.C. may at first be a little challenged by its concept of operation, because the central dial, which is the key design feature of all B.M.C. components, has to be pressed to start playback. Turning the dial will select the track you want to play, a turn to the left selects the last track, a turn to the right the next one. On the right side of the dial is a label marked "Play/Pause", and it is just that: A label, so do not mistake it for a sensor or a touchscreen key.

### Exceptionally refined sound

The B.M.C.'s sound characteristics offer immense clarity and extensiveness, two properties that have a positive effect on the plasticity and availability of its sound. Strict neutrality and richness of detail make up the foundation on which this performance is grounded. You can hear José Carreras cantillating, whispering, belting out the kyrie of "Miss Criolla" in a realistically reproduced nave of a church.

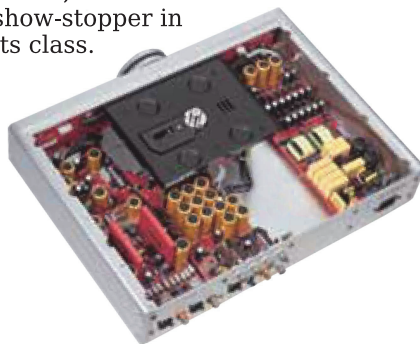
The player's level of dynamics and thrust is remarkable, this is due to the fact that it does not only feature a potent output stage, but also has an ample, functionally detached and stabilized power supply. Its extraordinary precision, especially in mid-range, never makes it drift too far off into analytical territory, it always remains smooth. Part of this smoothness can certainly be attributed to the powerful bass, which in itself is quite an experience and will for sure help you getting in contact with your neighbors.

In addition to all the usual symmetric and asymmetric analog connectors, the BDCD1 allows you to establish a large variety of digital connections, such as fiber optics, Coax-Cinch,

AES/EBU (XLR) and BNC. The player also offers a special connection that is common to many components by Carlos Candéias, and called "Superlink". It emits a signal through four "Superlink"-BNC connectors; this signal completely separately transmits audio data plus three kinds of clocks (master, bit, left/right), without any en- or decoding. Of course you can only externally enjoy the tonal advantages this brings if the converter side of your system is equipped with "Candéias" converters that enable it to receive "Superlink" signals.

Customers can opt to purchase the player as we have tested it in two steps: They may buy the CD-drive without the DAC board with dual-channel PCM1792 converter with symmetric output voltage by TI (formerly Burr-Brown), and add said board (which was included in our test package) later on. This converter stage is followed by a cascoding single-ended class-A output stage that is based on the LEF concept typical for Candéias. Another feature worthy of praise is the real ("hard") powerswitch, that completely shuts off the player's power consumption.

However, the most amazing thing about this player may in the end be its price tag. While it is not necessarily cheap, the workmanship, look and feel, and, first and foremost, no-compromise use of materials and unconventional technologies in combination with some smart concepts definitely command respect, and may easily cost double the money if it was made by a different company. A little more shock resistance could come in handy during everyday use, but, all in all, the BDCD1 is an absolute show-stopper in its class.

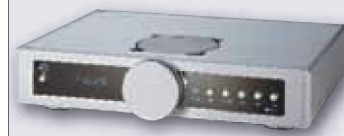


Formidable design layout that suggests an even higher price range



The B.M.C. offers all the connections you can think of - plus a proprietary one called "Superlink"

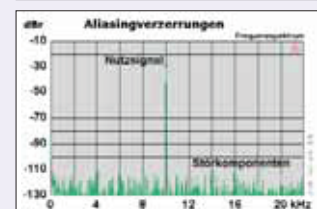
## B.M.C. BDCD1



about €2800  
 Size: 44x10x34cm (WxHxT)  
 Warranty: 3 Years  
 Distribution: B.M.C.  
 Tel.: +49 561 4739815  
 www.bmc-audio.com

Toploader with incredibly precise and focused playback, a sturdy fundamental and good dynamics. Its look and feel are also superb.

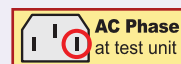
### TEST RESULTS\*



Frequency response	good
Signal/Noise ratio Digital 0	103dB
Quantification S/N	96dB
THD + Noise	0.004%
Aliasing distortion	0.011%
DAC linearity	0.2dB
Tracking stability	medium
Shock resistance	poor
Square/Pulse	*see comment
Output impedance (at 1kHz)	0.048kΩ
Output voltage (at 0 dB)	2.018V
Power consumption	Off   Standby   Idle
	0   -   13W

### \* Note from the lab:

The impulse-optimized filtering causes deviations from the norm, that, in reality, of course cannot be called "poor". On the contrary, the player's test results are extraordinary. It just does not deal well with shocks and old emphasis CDs. Furthermore we observed a slight (but uncritical) 62 kHz interfering signal at the output.



### FEATURES

Belt-driven toploader, remote control (with mute/volume control of amplifier), digital outputs, AES/EBU, Coax-Cinch, Coax-BNC, Toslink and "Superlink". Cinch/XLR outputs, standard drive functions, innovative control concept. Real power switch

### STEREO-TEST

SOUND QUALITY 83%

VALUE FOR MONEY

★★★★★

STATE OF THE ART