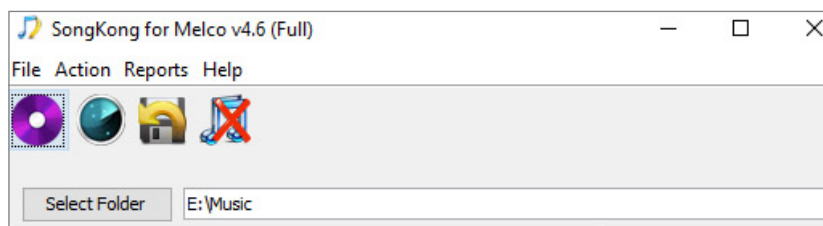# Melco announces

♫ SongKong for MELCO

the ultimate Digital Librarian

Press contact details:

Andy Napthine
Napthine Porter Ltd.
andy@napthineporter.com
07920 425166

Feb xx 2017 – London – MELCO, the audiophile division of leading Japanese computer peripheral company Buffalo Technology, has announced SongKong for Melco.


This is a unique partnership with the highly regarded SongKong, from JThink who developed the esteemed Jaikoz tagging software. SongKong for Melco is primarily a simple to use solution that automatically re-tags a complete music folder, or a complete collection, in a totally consistent manner, in accordance with sophisticated rules and algorithms optimised for large collections including Classical and Jazz. The rules are clearly stated and can be amended by the user.

Additionally, and very important for audiophiles with collections of Naim wav rips, SongKong for Melco not only creates conventional embedded metadata, which is missing from the Naim rips, but also makes additional lookups to extend the depth and quality of the metadata for ease of browsing, and opens the Naim rips to be universally enjoyed with players other than Naim, including of course the Melco local USB-DAC player.

Badly configured metadata, or even a lack of metadata in the case of Naim .wav rips, is replaced by optimally constructed metadata fields. SongKong for Melco supports all the main music formats and brings order to the tagging of .wav files. There is scope for user configuration which applies to the whole library, and a single button will undo all changes.

Metadata - the information applied to music files to allow the user to determine artist, track and genre information - is an unsung but critical part of a modern music library. However, incorrectly or inconsistently applied, metadata can make the process of browsing a large library unnecessarily difficult and frustrating. For many listeners, whose collections feature a greater proportion of jazz or classical releases featuring multiple versions of the same piece of music, with different composers or artists, the standard fields for metadata can be totally inadequate, and the inconsistent application of the metadata fields by diffevrent record labels or vendors makes many collections nonsense to browse.
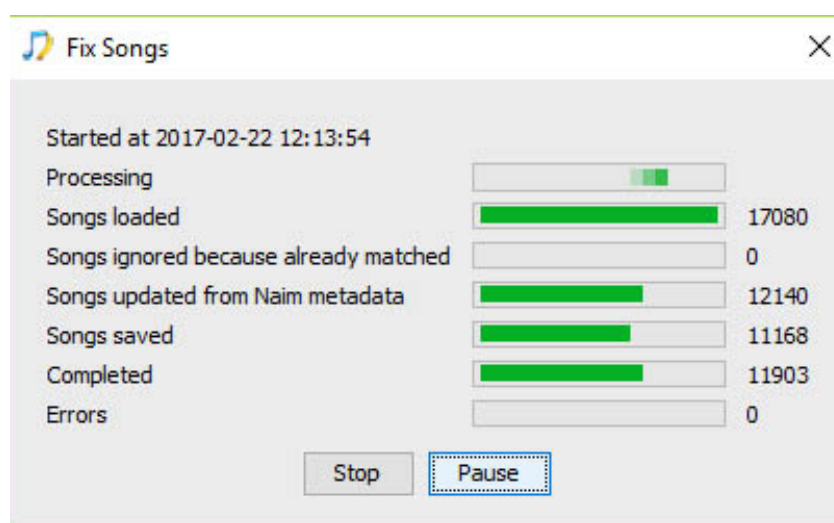
SongKong for Melco is designed to obviate these issues. Melco owners can download SongKong for Melco from the links on the Melco website or directly from the SongKong website for PC, Mac or Linux platforms. SongKong for Melco then runs from a very simple 4 button control panel.
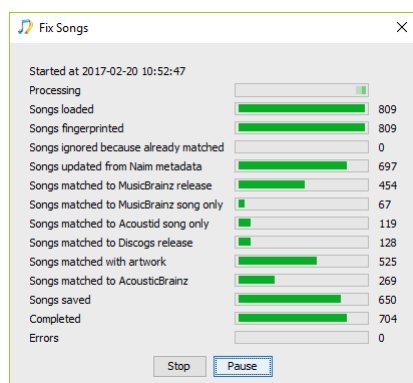
A single button for 'Fix Songs' will allow SongKong to harvest all known metadata from the music folder, and then SongKong for Melco will supplement the metadata using additional libraries from the existing metadata as well as using the unique acoustic fingerprint of the music track. For each track revised, metadata is embedded in a totally consistent manner irrespective of the original music source – acoustic fingerprinting even allows vinyl rips to acquire metadata where available.

Badly configured metadata, or even a lack of metadata in the case of Naim .wav rips, is replaced by optimally constructed metadata fields. SongKong for Melco supports all the main music formats and brings order to the tagging of .wav files. There is scope for user configuration which applies to the whole library, and a single button will undo all changes.

Duplicate files often exist in collections, sometimes with different sample rates or compressions, and a single button on the SongKong for Melco Control Panel will manage the deletion of needless files, saving multiple entries in the Browser or the waste of HDD space.

After processing, SongKong for Melco generates a detailed report of all changes, any problems, and delivers a complete catalogue of the collection at that time.

SongKong for Melco is fully supported by the excellent support and forum of JThink and can be downloaded from the end of February. It is multilingual.

SongKong for Melco demonstrates that not only is Melco at the leading edge in manufacturing hardware for the finest possible storage and reproduction of Hi-Res music, but Melco also provides expertise and solutions for managing music collections and ensuring the best possible user experience.
SongKong for Melco is available now and can be downloaded from the Songkong website - http://www.jthink.net/songkong/

By purchasing SongKong, you get:

- The full program without limitations.
- Free updates for life. This includes major and minor versions of SongKong
- Unlimited email support for life.
- Participate in improvements to SongKong by providing feedback.

SongKong for Melco (Melco customert) £40

SongKong for Melco (non Melco customer) £50

About MELCO - www.melco-audio.com

MELCO, which stands for Maki Engineering Laboratory Company, was established by Makoto Maki in 1975 in Japan. Maki, an enthusiastic audiophile, established the company to design and manufacture the finest audio components of the time - the undoubted masterpiece of the MELCO line being the turntable, introduced into the UK in 1980, which set new standards in music reproduction.

From those early beginnings MELCO developed into the largest computer peripherals manufacturer in Japan (Buffalo Inc.), offering advanced products based on rigorous R&D, including Wireless routers, Ethernet Data Switches and storage devices such as NAS drives.

Now the Company is proud to revive the highly-respected MELCO brand, offering discerning audiophiles high technology networked audio components in the spirit of those much revered early MELCO products, while incorporating the very latest research into reliable high performance networked devices and storage.

For further information, images, interview requests and press samples, please contact:

Press contact details:

Andy Napthine
Napthine Porter Ltd.
andy@napthineporter.com
07920 425166

MELCO Digital Music Libraries - Explained

MELCO Direct Streaming Music (DSM)

Regardless of the precautions and optimisations within a digital music source/network player, it all comes to nothing when sensitive music data is put onto a LAN network. Compromises such as commodity grade data cables and data switches designed purely for rapid data transfer all have a detrimental effect on music files. To combat this, MELCO Music Libraries (MML) have a dedicated Ethernet port for direct link to the network player. By removing the necessity for external network switches, this architecture not only ensures the best possible data delivery from the Melco N1 to the player, but also exposes the benefits of carefully engineered precision Ethernet cables.

The dedicated Player port establishes the relationship between the MML and the player, including management of the player IP address.

A separate Ethernet port provides a high-quality connection to the LAN, so that the network player will still be connected via the MML and, therefore, can be controlled by iOS or Android devices, whilst also connect to music streaming sites or Internet radio. But for the simplest purest playback of High Resolution music on a network player that has its own control, all that is required is the Melco N1 and a precision Ethernet cable. Setting the MELCO N1 into Direct Mode activates an internal DHCP server removing the need for any IT devices in the audio system.

Local USB-DAC Player

The Local USB-DAC player can be used in the same manner as the Network Player, connected via the dedicated USB 2.0 socket on the rear each model. The Local USB-DAC player is simply controlled from a UPnP Control App on a Smartphone or Tablet on the network. The App discovers the N1 & DAC combo as a Digital Media Renderer or Player on the Network as soon as a DAC is connected using a standard USB cable to the N1.

The N1 Local USB-DAC Player supports PCM up to 384 kHz / 32 bit, and DSD up to 11.3MHz MHz quad DSD. Automatic sample rate adjustment is offered to match the capabilities of the connected DAC - e.g. 192 kHz is automatically downsampled to play on a 96 kHz capable DAC. DSD to PCM conversion is also supported, with the conversion of DSD to 24 bit PCM for USB DACs that do not support DSD via a manual setting in the Menu.

The Playlist can be stored either on the N1 (Mode 1) to allow the playlist to be maintained even if the App is out of contact, or on the App itself (Mode 0) for when the App requires it. New firmware allows the N1 to operate in Hybrid Mode whereby the MELCO automatically works out the appropriate control mode.

The MELCO Local USB-DAC player can be easily controlled by any UPnP control Point (App) and will play music from other UPnP servers on the Network in addition to music stored on the MELCO.

True Audiophile performance

Audio performance is paramount as the industry moves beyond the legacy standards of the CD format. This makes such issues as data integrity and jitter even more critical. For this reason, the MML range uses none of the IT industry norms in creating this solution.

Internal and external data communications are differentiated with separate and isolated power supplies, whilst SSD data management is especially optimised as the requirements

for audio are quite different to PC requirements (music data is written infrequently and is rarely modified, rendering the usual SSD lifetime optimisation algorithms as inappropriate, especially as they also tend to impact on data integrity, as they operate in burst as required). The MML uses highly stable purpose-built Audio Grade SSDs designed especially for audio playback, as they have a low level and consistent management algorithm that has zero impact on data integrity. Audio Grade SSD also greatly reduces power supply spikes compared to fast IT SSDs.

All digital processes, including the external Ethernet communications, are derived from a precision ultra-low jitter data clock to ensure total freedom from jitter-induced artefacts on final D/A conversion. The low jitter Ethernet connectivity is provided by RJ45 ports isolated with high grade TDK magnetics. This ensures absolute freedom from interference and noise, which is otherwise fed into sensitive analogue electronics in the playback system. The Ethernet connectors have opto-coupled data transfer indicating LEDs, which can be extinguished to provide the purest connection environment.

Power supplies are critical in all high-end audio applications. Not only does the MML separate power supplied for internal and external data communications, but also specially designed components minimise common mode interference, protecting delicate analogue circuitry elsewhere in the playback system. N1Z chassis models benefit from twin medical grade supplies.

Simple setup – no computers

In the spirit of the MML being a true Audiophile source, the MML does not have a web server and does not require a computer to either configure it or to enable it to play. A versatile array of useful customisations is available from the informative OLED front panel display and navigation buttons. During playback, the display shows the selected track along with sample rate. For ultimate audio performance, the display can be switched off during playback.

Storing music files to the MML is simple via the USB 3.0 socket on the rear or over the LAN, whilst backup is easy thanks to the dedicated rear-mounted BACKUP USB 3.0 socket, which automatically offers to start to backup the music data onto any external drive with enough capacity upon connection.

Newly introduced is MELCO Direct CD-import allowing archival copies of the user's CD collection.

Expansion to over 12Tb is easily achieved by simply adding a USB drive to the dedicated rear-mounted EXPANSION port. No configuration is required – the additional capacity is simply available to store more music.

The simple Hi-Fi style front panel on/off switch means that the MML is up and running after only 15 seconds and can be shut down safety in under five seconds. Were there to be a power cut, all music files remain safe, thanks to the Melco N1 robust software.

High Resolution Music Download direct to the MELCO Music Library

Purchasing habits for music are changing dramatically and the MELCO Music Library offers users the ability to download HD music from several online stores directly into the MML without any requirement for external computers other than to confirm the initial purchase – the MML polls all user accounts seeking newly purchased music and will download directly and verify the music files ready for immediate playing.