CEN.GRAND

GLD/GLS 1.0 Media Player

Instruction

2504.4.01

The GLD/GLS1.0 (hereinafter referred to as GLD/S) series digital player is the new generation of digital player developed by Cen.Grand after years of research and development. It is different from most similar products on the market because it adopts Cen.Grand's proprietary digital processing and transmission architecture. It abandons the USB asynchronous audio protocol and USB transmission mode, instead using a high-speed synchronous transmission mode. This ensures 100% data integrity, achieving the highest audio performance standard for digital players. Its structure and operation method differ from other digital players, and new users are advised to read the manual carefully.

1 , What kind of digital player is the GLD1.0/GLS1.0? How does it differ from other players?

The GLD/GLS series is a player developed based on advanced digital audio technology. GLD is a "digital turntable", while GLS is an all-in-one unit with a DAC. The difference between GLD/S and other products is that it uses computer architecture for file management and network funtion, and the operating system is Windows 10/11 LTSC version. The digital audio part adopts the advanced digital system independently developed by Cen.Grand, which is the core of GLD/S. It has the following features:

1) The internal data of GLD/S is synchronously transmitted through the PCIe interface, which differs from the USB asynchronous transmission used by most digital players.
2) GLD/S features the unique "POW" technology (Parting Of the Ways), which separates data and clock transmission. After reaching the DAC, a module combines them into an I2S-format data stream.
3) The digital audio part is completely different from traditional "PCIe sound cards." It is not a "sound card" but a "PCIe device" with a special driver. Audio is transmitted in pure data form ensuring 100% data integrity.

Since Windows is used as the operating system, GLD/S can runs various application software. In addition to the default JRiver player, users can choose other music platforms (as long as they support ASIO) such as **Roon**, **Qobuz**,etc . GLD/S's advanced digital architecture ensures the integrity of music data, thus providing you excellent audio performance. Due to 100% complete data output, GLD/S reaches the highest level of sound quality of digital player, and its improvement can't be replaced by any other method.

2: What is the difference between GLD1.0 and GLS1.0?

GLD is a digital "turntable," which only outputs digital signals. In addition to the usual optical, coaxial, BNC, and AES interfaces, it also features POW and I2S interfaces. It requires a DAC for use.

GLS is the GLD with an integrated DAC. It has analog, AES, and I2S outputs, but no POW output. It's a complete digital player that can connect directly to your amplifier.

3, What do you need to do before using GLD1.0?

1) You need to familiarize yourself with the usage of GLD/S's default player, JRiver. It is a very popular and powerful player . You will also need to purchase a remote control app for JRiver and install it on your mobile device, such as your phone or iPad. This way, you can control GLD/S using your phone, iPad, or other handheld devices.

   If you do not intend to use JRiver and prefer another player, you can install it yourself. The operation method is exactly the same as using your computer, as the file management of GLD/S is based on a computer system.

2) Install remote control software, **Anydesk**, on your computer. This is the software we currently recommend (subject to change in the future). The GLD/S device you received has this software pre-installed and set to run automatically at startup. Once your GLD/S is powered on and connected to the network, you can open Anydesk on your computer (your computer must be on the same local network as GLD/S), click the icon, and enter the password: **CENGRAND**. Then, you can operate GLD/S on your computer and manage files, adjust settings, and control JRiver playback just like using your own computer.

   Download link: **https://anydesk.com/en**. We recommend using the paid version.

3) You must prepare a network environment for GLD/S, either the Internet or a local area network. GLD/S is a digital player, also known as a streamer, So it needs a network to perform its functions. Only with the help of the Internet can you manage and control GLD/S.

4, Getting Started with GLD/GLS1.0

1) Step One: Connecting to the network is the most important thing. Since GLD/S is controlled via the network, you have three options for connecting it.

a: Simply connect the GLD/S to your router with an Ethernet cable. This is the simplest method and requires no configuration. You just need an Ethernet cable

b: Connect to WiFi using the GLD/S admin software. The software will automatically launch upon startup and guide you through using the buttons on the GLD/S panel to select a WiFi network and enter the password for connection.

c: If you have a mouse and keyboard, You can connect GLD/S to the Internet like a normal computer. If you only have a mouse (which almost everyone does), you can bring up the virtual keyboard in Windows and enter the WiFi password to connect. The method is as follows:

Method 1:

Start Menu-Windows System-Control Panel-Ease of Access-Ease of Access Center-Start On-Screen Keyboard

Method 2 (Win11):

Right-click on the blank area of the taskbar-Taskbar settings-Taskbar corner icons-Touch keyboard-Turn On

If a keyboard icon appears in the lower-right corner of your GLD/S's Windows desktop, you can click on it with the mouse when you need to enter a password, and an on-screen keyboard will pop up.

2) Using a Mobile Device or Computer to Control GLD/S

a: Highly Recommended: Initially, use **Anydesk** to control GLD/S for playback. This is the easiest way to get GLD/S up and running. With Anydesk's help, you can easily set up JRiver on your computer, or install other playback software or online music platforms, just like operating a PC HiFi.

b: Once your GLD/S is working properly and you are familiar with JRiver, you can download the JRiver remote control app to your mobile device to control GLD/S. Available on the Apple Store (JRemote) and Google Store (JRemote3, Android).

c: Once you are fully familiar with GLD/S, you can use it freely, just like using your computer. This is one of the unique advantages of GLD/S. You can install your preferred player or online music platform as long as it supports ASIO, and it will work with the GLD/S. You can also easily set up your NAS and create your own music library, just like setting up a local network on a computer.

If you choose JRiver as your default player, **you will need to learn more about how to use it**. There are many tutorials available online. Once you master JRiver's features, you will find that it is a powerful player.

In summary, the GLD/S is as powerful as a computer, giving you greater freedom in its usage.

3) What is the management software admin DSDAC?

Admin DSDAC is a software that runs automatically upon startup and offers the following features:

a) It allows you to connect GLD/S to WiFi using the panel buttons without needing a keyboard or mouse.

b) It sets the default player to start automatically upon boot (default is JRiver), but you can also configure it to automatically start another player in Windows.

c) It displays the network status on the left side of the screen, with the "STATUS 1" indicator light showing the network connection status. If the network is connected successfully, the indicator will light up.

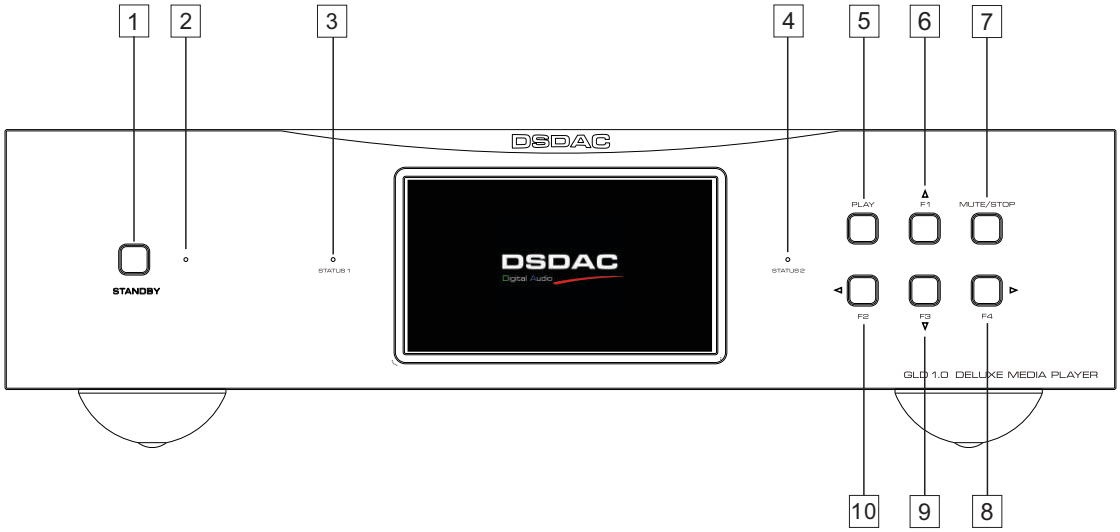
d) When using JRiver in an offline environment, press the F4 right arrow key, and the Admin DSDAC software's main interface will appear. The IP address of this device on the local network will be shown in the lower-right corner. You can input this IP address into the JRiver remote app on your mobile device to connect and control GLD/S remotely.

f) If JRiver is set as the default player, when GLD/S starts up, it will automatically play the song that was playing when the system was last shut down. — even without a keyboard, mouse, network, or remote app. You can use the panel's up/down buttons and the play button to switch tracks or pause/play, Basic playback is available through any external device or network connection.

The Admin DSDAC software runs automatically upon startup, and it will first check for a network connection. If there is no network, it will prompt you to connect. If there is no operation within 6 seconds after startup, GLD/S will automatically continue to run, and the default player will start.

Once you are fully familiar with GLD/S, this admin DSDAC software can be uninstalled if desired.

5, Introduction of GLD1.0 Panel Functions



1, **Power On/Off Button**: When the power switch on the rear panel is set to ON, the device enters standby status. Pressing this button powers the device on or off (into standby). Holding it down for two seconds triggers an emergency shutdown. Only the power indicator must be blinking slowly, and then press this button to start the GLD/S.

2, **Power Indicator Light**: Flashes slowly in standby mode, flashes quickly during power on/off transitions, and remains lit continuously during normal operation.

Special Note:

As the system runs on Windows, the power-on and shutdown processes are slow and must follow a specific sequence. Therefore, the power-on button should only be pressed when the power indicator is flashing slowly. Repeatedly pressing the power-on button may disrupt the boot sequence, potentially preventing the system from starting properly.

If this occurs, turn off the main power switch on the rear panel for 10 seconds, then turn it back on. This will restore the normal boot process.

3, **Status Indicator 1**: Network status indicator. This light stays on when the network connection is successful. This function is only available if the admin DSDAC software is installed.

4, **Status Indicator 2**: Mute indicator. When the mute/stop button is pressed, this light flashes to indicate the system is muted. Pressing the button again cancels mute, and the light remains steadily on.

5, **Play Button**: This button serves two functions: 1-Play/Pause control for Jriver. 2-"Return" button during operations within the admin DSDAC software. These functions are only available if the Admin DSDAC software is installed.

6, **F1 / Up Button**: This button has three functions: 1-When the screen is off, pressing and holding for 5 seconds turns the screen back on. 2-Skip to the previous track during JRiver playback (requires admin DSDAC software installed and DLNA of JRiver is available). 3-Acts as a directional key (Up) in the Admin DSDAC software menu.

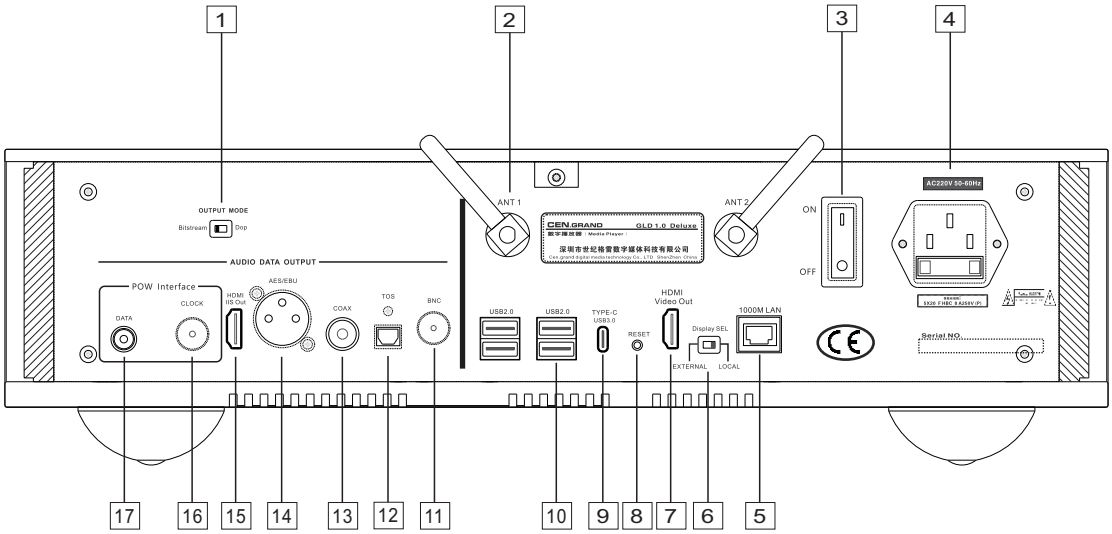
7, **Mute Button**: Press once to mute, and press again to unmute. While muted, Status Indicator 2 flashes.

8, **F4 / Right Button**: This button has two functions: 1-call out the main page of the admin DSDAC software. 2- Serves as the right directional key in the Admin DSDAC software menu.

9, **F3 / Down Button**: This button has three functions: 1-Press and hold for 3 seconds to turn off the screen. 2-Skip to the next track during JRiver playback (requires Admin DSDAC software installed and DLNA of JRiver is available). 3-Acts as the down directional key in the Admin DSDAC software menu.

10, **F2 / Left Button**: This button has two functions: 1- Closes the main page of the Admin DSDAC software when it is open. 2- Serves as the left directional key in the Admin DSDAC software menu.

6, Introduction of GLD1.0's Backplane Functions



1. **Output Mode Selection Switch:** If you are using the **POW** interface or I2S to output data to a DAC, the switch must be set to "Bitstream". If you are using SPDIF to output to a DAC, the switch must be set to "DOP". Otherwise, noise may occur.
   (important notes)

2. **WiFi Antennas**: If you are using an Ethernet cable to connect the GLD/S, these two antennas are not required.

3. **Main Power Switch**: When set to ON, the device enters standby mode. When set to OFF, the device is completely powered off.

4. **Power Socket**: Uses a 5x20mm, 8A fuse.

5. **RJ45 Network Port:** Built-in Gigabit Ethernet.

6. **Display Selection Switch**: Set to "LOCAL" for the built-in screen display. Set to "EXTERNAL" for output to an external monitor. Switching is allowed while the device is working.

7. **HDMI Port for External Display**: Standard HDMI video output. The external monitor must support a sufficient refresh rate, or it may not work properly.

8. **Reset Button**: If the system freezes, press this button using a toothpick or other pointed object to reset the device.

9. **Type-C USB Port.**

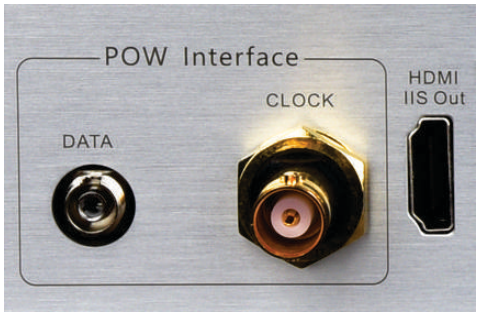
10. **Type-A USB Port.**

11–14. **BNC, TOS, COAX, AES** : All of these port are SPDIF interfaces, capable of outputting PCM192/ DOP64.

15. **I2S Output Port**: Refer to the diagram below for the wiring sequence.

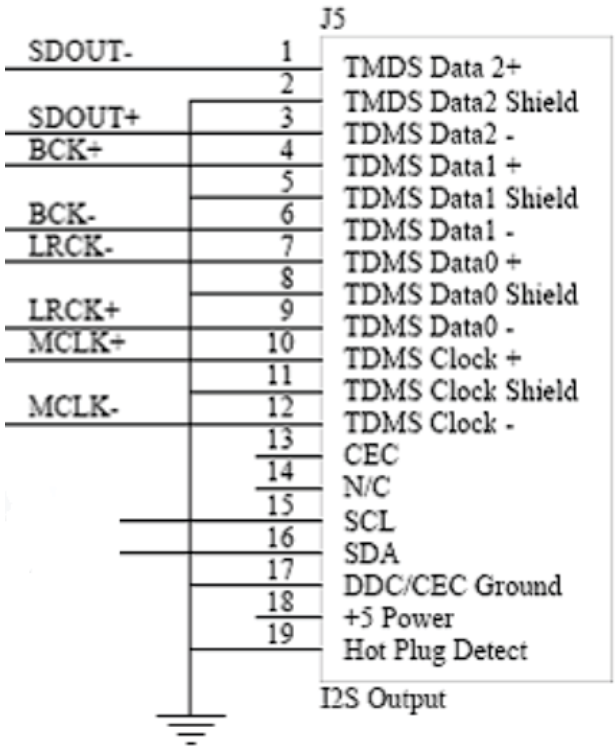
16–17. **POW Output Ports** (Parting Of the Ways): In Chinese: "分道扬镳" — clock and audio data are transmitted separately. Clock is transmitted via 50-ohm BNC coaxial cable, and audio data via optical fiber. This is one of the core technologies of GLD 1.0.

GLD 1.0 POW / I2S Interface



DSDAC 1.0 POW / I2S Interface

GLD 1.0 I2S Interface



7, Common Issues and Precautions When Using GLD/S

1) **Occasional Freezing or Other Irregularities**

GLD/S runs on a Windows-based system and, like a regular PC, may occasionally encounter issues such as freezing, lagging, or unresponsiveness. These are not considered hardware faults and are usually resolved with a simple reboot. Playback interruptions may also occur during system updates — this is normal.

To ensure stable performance, it is recommended not to install any software other than the necessary playback applications. Since GLD/S uses synchronous data transmission, which is highly sensitive to timing, minimizing background processes helps maintain smoother playback.

2) **Computational Limitations of the GLD1.0 Standard Model**

The standard model of GLD 1.0 uses an Intel NUC module with a Celeron 7305 CPU (dual-core, 4GB RAM). When playing DSD512 or DST-compressed DSD files, temporary stuttering or pauses may occur if resource-heavy background processes are also running — this is normal. It is recommended to prioritize uncompressed music formats for optimal performance.

3) **How to Maximize the Potential of GLD 1.0**

GLD 1.0 requires an external DAC. The optimal connection is through the POW (Parting of the Ways) interface, which separates the clock and audio data transmission. Currently, only Cen.Grand's DSDAC 1.0 Deluxe and Super Clock model DACs support POW input.

If you're using SPDIF, you can still benefit from complete data integrity, but high-resolution (hi-res) data transmission is limited. If you're using I2S, note that its clock quality is not ideal. Therefore, it's best to use a DAC with clock blocking capability, such as the Cen.Grand DSDAC 1.0, to achieve the best performance.

4) **How to cancel the auto running funtion of Jriver when start up?**

a , Uninstall admin DSDSC software.

b, Close the start up funtion in windows , step:

" start - system - application - startup" , Set this to off.

c, JRiver setting menu,

" Tool - Options - Startup - Windows Startup " , select "Nothing"

5) How to recover your system if it crashes

If the system configuration is messed up and you want to restore the GLD/S to its original state, you can use the "System Restore Points" function. The GLD/S is set to an initial state in the system before leaving the factory, and you can restore your unit to this state. The steps are as follows.

Windows 11:

System - About - Advanced system settings - System Properties -
Click on the tabs at the top : System Protection - System Protection - System Restore

Select a restore point : **cen.grand GLD1.0 initial state 202X/X/X** - Next - Finish - Yes

Windows 10:

Start - Settings - System - System Information - System Protection(right side) - System Restore

Select a restore point : **cen.grand GLD1.0 initial state 202X/X/X** - Next - Finish - Yes

8, Some of JRiver's tutorials

Official Tutorials :
https://wiki.jriver.com/index.php/Getting_Started?utm_source

Official advanced Tutorials :
https://wiki.jriver.com/index.php/Media_Center_Manual_Beta?utm_source

YouTube :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkgWfO1U9nQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf7c4oKigis

user experience :
https://yabb.jriver.com/interact/index.php?topic=111775.0&utm_source
https://djbasilisk.com/resources/jriver-media-center-user-guide/?utm_source

Please find related tutorials on the Internet if you use other playback software.