Digital signals carry stereo information in a single data stream. That means that we cannot follow our normal approach to scalable system architecture, using independent C1 DAC Controllers for left and right channels, as we have to have a single input connection. Instead, to deliver improved performance, we retain the C1 input architecture but then split the digital information into left and right channels for routing to dedicated external DACs, with a single chassis for each channel. This allows us to retain the exceptional functional flexibility of the C1 and the scalability of the system, while delivering a genuinely significant upgrade in performance.

Feeding the left and right channels to independent DACs allows us to provide dedicated, fully regulated power supplies for the digital processing and decoding functions electrically isolating these critical processes from the control functionality and the optional analog inputs. By placing the DACs in completely separate chassis units, we achieve zero crosstalk between the two channels and prevent high-frequency contamination of the critical analog power supplies. The analog output from each DAC chassis retains the discrete, fully-complementary topology of the C1, but now with a dedicated power supply for each channel, further reducing noise and increasing stability. The improved performance of the output stage adds dynamic range and authority to the C1 Mono’s musical performance, to match the added resolution of its digital stages. The end result is the most musically natural and satisfying digital replay we have ever achieved.

Owners of existing C1 units wishing to upgrade them to dual-monaural, three chassis status can do so by having their C1 modified and adding the separate mono DACs – without any cost penalty. The price of the complete upgrade is the same as the difference in cost between the C1 and C1 Mono. The C1 Mono is also compatible with X1 external power supplies, so that owners who have matched an X1 to their C1 can add a second output board to their power supply and use it to drive both DACs. Or of course, you can simply add dedicated X1s to both the DACs and the C1 controller, creating a six-box true dual-monaural system. For ultimate performance, add a T1 10MHz Time Reference with its GPS facility, while a D1/X1 and CH-Link HD will provide optimum replay of material from CD/SACD discs.

Every CH Precision product conforms to our model of modular construction and scalable upgradability – but none take that concept as far, or offer the potential performance benefits enjoyed by the C1 Mono. It is our digital masterpiece.