

Thank you for purchasing the Zen CD Player model ZCD160MK II. Please refer to the original Tascam operating manual for information on the player itself.

The modifications to this player include the following:

Transport Laser assembly dampening

Dampening of the clock crystals and SM chips

Dampening of the outer chassis

New analog class A triode output stage set up for use with a 12AU7 or 12AT7 tube. The output stage is direct fed off the DAC chip. Original solid state output section is still active and usable on the original output jacks.

There are two LED indicators on the front (RED in color) that indicate status. The one on the left indicates that the tube stage is active. It will turn on and stay on whenever the unit is plugged in. The one on the right will come on when you turn on the CD player and go off when you turn off the CD player. As you may have concluded, the tube section in this player stays on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It has been designed this way on purpose. Reduced voltages on the tube and its heaters ensure long life and keep the tube cool enough to be touched during operation.

The tube is located at the rear of the unit for ease of access (for those who like to roll tubes) and the output jacks are adjacent to the tube. This was done to eliminate any wire between the output of the tube stage and the output jacks. It is as pure a connection as you can have.

The output level of this CD player is adjusted to aprox 2 volts with the supplied 12AU7 tube. It can however be set up to output any voltage between 0 - 5 volts here at Decware. That means if you have a set up that would be better served with more or less voltage we can adjust it for you at any time. An adjustable level control could also have been used on the outputs but we felt in this design that it would hamper the fidelity a tiny bit, and we're trying to squeeze out every little bit we can from this player.

A final note, Tascam with the start of the MK II series of CD160 players has added MP3 playback and shock protection. The shock protection (EPS) spins the CD up to double speed and reads ahead 10 seconds of material into a buffer before spinning down to normal speed and locking. This EPS system has issues tracking some CD's and burned CD's. The issues are largely intermittent or random meaning some days it may play it some days it may not. THE EPS feature can be turned of with the REMOTE CONTROL! With the EPS feature disabled, we have not found any CD's burned or otherwise that this player would not play flawlessly. If the EPS feature gives you problems with a particular CD or you grow tired of the EPS feature just remember that you can turn it off.

This player comes with a 1 year warranty including the tube.

Please call with any questions you have at (309) 822 5255

Thanks,

Steve Deckert