



**Hegel HD20**  
**High End D/A Converter**

**[www.hegel.com](http://www.hegel.com)**

**[info@hegel.com](mailto:info@hegel.com)**

## USER GUIDE

Congratulations on your new HEGEL!

Every Hegel product is based on a simple philosophy:

The audio reproduction instrument shall reproduce the original musical sound, purely and naturally.

It shall use Scandinavian design reflecting natural music reproduction and styling to fit in with any interior.

The products shall be easy to operate and shall be manufactured according to the best quality principles.

All HEGEL products are created with acoustical instruments in a concert situation as point of reference. The music is reproduced exactly like the original and is limited only by the quality of the recording.

*Our aim is to give you the best possible music experience!*

## SOUND ADVICE

The Hegel HD20 High End Digital to Analog converter is easy to connect and operate, and requires no prior technical knowledge. However, to get the most out of the converter's superior sound and music quality, we have provided a brief description of how to use the device in order to provide a total music experience.

We recommend keeping this user guide for future reference.

## GENERAL USE – Front Panel



The HD20 DAC is controlled using the supplied RC7 system remote control

### **On/Off**

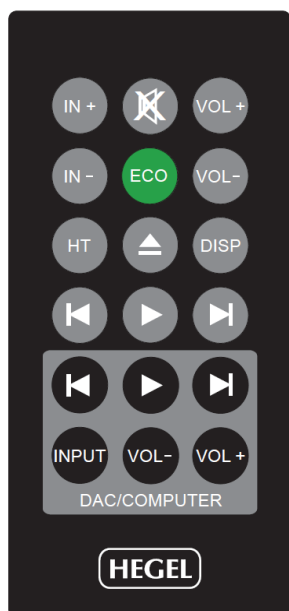
The power switch is on the rear side of the D/A Converter, next to the mains input. When powered up, the HD20 will use 15 seconds to calibrate. During this time, the outputs will be muted.

**NOTE:** When powered up the outputs will be muted and the display will flash for approximately 15 seconds. This is normal, and is part of the start-up procedure.

## GENERAL USE – Remote Control (introduction)

The top four rows of buttons are Hegel system remote control functions that can be used to control most Hegel amplifiers and CD-players. Functionality may differ from model to model. The bottom two rows are designated HD20 and computer controls.

Remote control buttons (starting top left)



1. Switches up to next input on your Hegel amplifier
2. Mute for Hegel amplifiers
3. Volume up for Hegel amplifiers
4. Switches down to previous input on your Hegel amplifier
5. ECO – will put certain Hegel equipment in low power mode (sleep)
6. Volume down for Hegel amplifiers
7. Home Theatre input direct selection for certain Hegel amplifiers
8. Stop/Eject for Hegel CD-players
9. Display on/off for HD20 and certain other Hegel products
10. Skip to previous track on Hegel CD-players
11. Play. Starts playback on Hegel CD-players
12. Skip to next track on Hegel CD-players
13. Skip to previous track on most computers/media players
14. Play/Pause on most computers/media players
15. Skip to next track on most computers/media players
16. Input source selector button for the HD20
17. Volume Down button. Pressing and holding will decrease the output volume of the HD20.
18. Volume Up button. Pressing and holding will increase the output volume of the HD20

### Using the remote control to operate your HD20

The main buttons you will use to operate your HD20 are the buttons DISP (9), INPUT (16), VOL- (17) and VOL+ (18).

#### Display:

If you are listening in a dark room you may want to turn off the HD20's display. Pressing and holding the DISP-button (9) for approximately one second will turn the display off. A short press of the DISP-button will turn the display on again. If the display is turned off, any use of the HD20 function buttons (16, 17 or 18) will turn the display on temporarily to express the current status of the HD20. After a few seconds it will automatically turn off.

#### Input:

When you press the INPUT-button (16), the HD20 will switch to the next input source in the following sequence: COAX1 – COAX2 – OPTICAL – USB – COAX1 – COAX2 and so on.

On power-up the HD20 will remember the last used input.

#### Volume control:

The HD20 includes a built-in high quality digital volume control. This means that it can be used as a pre amplifier and be directly connected to a power amplifier. The volume can be increased or decreased by pressing and holding the VOL- (17) and VOL+ (18) buttons. The minimum output volume setting is 0 (mute) and the maximum is 100.

When used together with a pre amplifier or integrated amplifier with its own volume control, the volume setting on the HD20 should be 100. This is also the default setting.

**REMEMBER:** Factory volume setting is 100. However, if the volume setting is lower than 100 when power is turned off, the unit will start at a low-level default setting on the next power up. When you power up the unit the display will flash the actual volume setting for approximately 15 seconds.

**WARNING:** The default volume setting for the HD20 is maximum (100). If you plan to use it as a pre amplifier you **MUST** turn the volume down before you start playing music. Not doing so may cause severe damage to your amplifier and loudspeakers.

#### **PC/MAC remote control functions and a word about USB**

When you connect the HD20 to a computer with a USB cable (not included) it will automatically install itself as a USB soundcard on all newer versions of Windows and MAC OS, and most newer versions of Linux. We recommend that your computer is connected to the internet during the installation process. We also suggest you close all media players, such as iTunes or Windows Media Player before connecting the HD20.

#### Troubleshooting:

**MAC** – After installation you may need to go to “System Preferences – Sound – Output” and choose your USB Audio DAC as the output device. The name of the Hegel HD20 will read:

**“TE7022 Audio w/ SPDIF”**

**LINUX** – Usually you will need to do the same operation as with MAC (above). We have published an Ubuntu walkthrough online. Go to [www.hegel.com](http://www.hegel.com), choose HD20 and the questions & answers section (products – D/A converters – HD20).

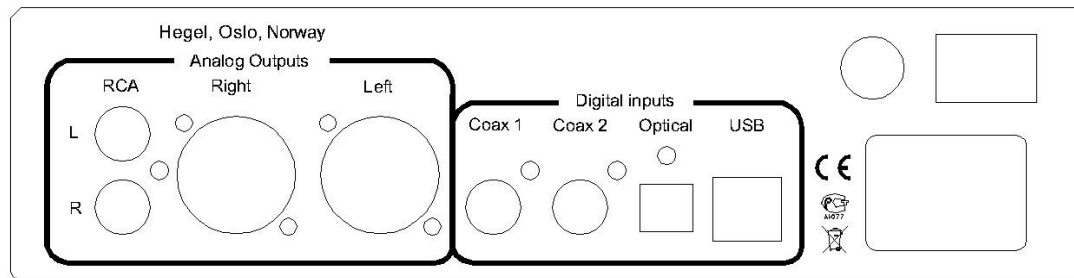
#### 24 bit Audio:

The HD20 can receive 24 bit music files through the USB interface. Getting 24 bit audio signals from your computer may require set-up in your media player. This may vary depending on operating system and media player. Please consult the FAQ section for your software. For playing CD-quality files (or lower) no additional set-up is needed.

#### **Better sound through the Coax 1 input**

The Coaxial 1 input on the HD20 has even better sound quality compared to the other digital inputs. Therefore we recommend that you connect your favorite source to this input.

## Rear Panel



From left to right the connectors are:

Unbalanced outputs Phono / RCA left / right

Balanced outputs XLR right / left

Digital input Phono / RCA – Coax 1

Digital input Phono / RCA – Coax 2

Digital input TOSLINK® / EIAJ Optical

Digital input USB

Mains fuse

AC Power input

Main power switch (on/off)

We recommend connecting the signal cables when the D/A Converter and all other units of the audio system are switched off.

The D/A Converter has two types of analog audio outputs: unbalanced audio signal for RCA plugs (phono plugs) and true balanced audio signal for XLR plugs (pin 2 is positive phase, pin 3 is negative phase and pin 1 is chassis ground).

We recommend using the balanced XLR outputs from the D/A Converter, as this will give the highest level of sound quality.

## USE & PLACEMENT

The HEGEL HD20 should be placed on a flat, hard surface for proper isolation from vibrations.

A certain space is required for air circulation above and below the D/A converter. The D/A converter must never be placed on a carpet or similar surface that obstructs air circulation through the unit. Nor must it be covered while in use or placed on a narrow shelf or in any other confined space. The D/A converter should not be placed on the top of an amplifier as the reduced airflow may cause damage to the D/A converter or the amplifier.

The D/A converter performs best after being switched on for about 30 minutes to allow the temperature of the internal circuits to stabilize.

The D/A converter will need “breaking in” for about 100 hours before maximum sound quality can be experienced.

## CLEANING

Fingerprints or stains on the front panel or top cover can be removed with a cloth moistened with warm water or a mild detergent suitable for cleaning mirrors and windows.

## TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING

If you are shipping the D/A Converter over a longer distance, please follow these instructions to prevent damaging it during transport:

1. First put a plastic bag around the D/A Converter
2. Fit the two shock absorbers on to the D/A Converter, one on the left side and one on the right side.
3. Then put it gently into the original cardboard box and secure it with adhesive tape to ensure that it does not open during shipment.

We wish you good luck in setting up your new D/A Converter and hope that it will give you many years of joyful natural sounding music experiences!

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### HEGEL HD20 High End D/A Converter

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Digital inputs      | Coaxial / optical up to 24bit 192kHz<br>USB up to 24bit 96kHz   |
| Output signal level | 2.5V RMS (at 0dBFS)   |
| Digital inputs      | 2 coaxial, 1 optical and 1 USB-B                                |
| Analog outputs      | Gold plated XLR balanced and gold plated RCA / phono unbalanced |
| Frequency response  | 0Hz - 50kHz   |
| Phase response      | Linear phase analog filter                                      |
| Noise floor         | -140dB  |
| Distortion          | Less than 0.001%  |
| Power supply        | Internal toroidal transformer and 30.000µF capacitors           |
| Dimensions / weight | 6cm x 21cm x 26cm (HxWxD) / 3.5kg                               |

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

### NOTE & WARNING

Hegel products should only be opened and / or serviced by certified Hegel technicians. The device contains electronic components that may cause severe electric shock. Work performed on Hegel products by unqualified personnel can cause serious damage and personal injury.

Opening of the product by non-authorized personnel will void the warranty.

The product must not be exposed to rain or moisture.

### VOLTAGE SETTING

Underneath the HD20 there is a red switch to toggle between 115V (use for 100-120V) and 230V mains voltage. Please check and confirm that the setting is correct for your country before use. If you are uncertain of the correct setting, please consult your Hegel dealer.

### WARRANTY

All Hegel products come with a 2-year warranty against defective materials and workmanship.

In case you should need any assistance with your Hegel product please find your nearest dealer or distributor by looking at the Hegel website: <http://www.hegel.com>

If you have any problems locating your dealer or distributor please e-mail to [info@hegel.com](mailto:info@hegel.com)



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