



DragonFly Black v1.5 – Flight Manual DragonFly Black is a USB digital-to-analog converter (DAC) designed to deliver cleaner, clearer, more naturally beautiful sound from any computer, smartphone, or tablet. DragonFly Black’s unique design allows for playback of any file type regardless of resolution. Natively, DragonFly Black is capable of decoding 24-bit/96kHz data. (For files with higher sample rates, your computer or mobile device, in conjunction with its playback software, will resample the data to a compatible resolution. For more details, see “Why is ‘Format’ Important.”) 4 DragonFly Black represents the culmination of several new and exciting achievements. Over the better part of three years, AudioQuest and acclaimed engineer Gordon Rankin have been tirelessly developing sophisticated software solutions that have allowed us to implement a new, high-performance class of USB microcontroller. We have chosen to work with Microchip®, a leading provider of microcontroller and analog semiconductors. With exceedingly low power consumption and extremely low-noise power supplies, the Microchip microcontrollers achieve unprecedented levels of efficiency and signal-to-noise ratio, regardless of bit- or sample-rate. While DragonFly versions 1.0 and 1.2 achieved new standards of performance and portability in the high-fidelity audio world, many of our customers have longed for a similar product that could be reliably used with their handheld mobile devices. Previously, DragonFly’s power consumption limited its compatibility to Mac and Windows laptops and PCs. Now, with our developments in the field of microcontrollers, we are able to improve DragonFly’s performance while also offering compatibility with handheld Apple Mobile and Android devices. Improved performance and greater versatility! DragonFly Black employs a unique clock system called a Hybrid-PLL. While not discrete, the Hybrid-PLL performs equal to, or better than, many discrete clock systems, at a fraction of their cost. This has allowed us to devote resources to more sophisticated components elsewhere. 5 Additionally, DragonFly Black is software upgradable. Our collaboration with Gordon Rankin and Microchip has now resulted in products that allow consumers to download new software if and when it ever becomes necessary. While we can’t reliably predict any necessary software changes, AudioQuest feels that it is important to provide longterm support for our customers and their investments in audio. Finally, we simply cannot overstate the significance of Gordon Rankin’s contributions to AudioQuest. DragonFly Black represents many of Gordon’s most innovative, creative, and elegant solutions to date. We encourage you to spend a few minutes reading through the Flight Manual and then sit back, relax, and get high on your favorite music! AudioQuest