# TIKI

*Network Audio Player*
*Instruction Manual*

**PLINIUS**

*The heart of music*

# Contents

All operational, technical and descriptive material in this publication is subject to change at any time without notice.  For further product information or queries, please contact your Plinius dealer.

Plinius products are designed and manufactured by Plinius Audio Limited, New Zealand.

# Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to become the proud owner of this Plinius Tiki Network Audio Player.

This manual has been prepared to help you understand the operation of your network audio player, and to provide information about its design and the variety of ways it may be used.

We have designed and manufactured this network audio player to reproduce your favourite music faithfully and accurately.  With a little care and a full understanding of the operating recommendations in this manual, your Plinius Tiki Network Audio Player will provide years of high-quality, trouble-free performance.

Please take the time to read this manual thoroughly before using your network audio player.


SERIAL NUMBER _____


FINAL TEST CERTIFIED BY _____

# Design Philosophy

From a distance you can see that the design of the Plinius products is more than an applied styling exercise to the front panel.  We have started from the ground up to produce a casing for our electronics that is unrivalled in its physical strength and visual simplicity.

Wherever possible we have reduced the number of parts needed and then invested massively in refining and producing the remaining parts to the highest quality achievable with state of the art computer controlled machines allied with expert craftsman.  Examples of this approach include the hydraulically formed corners on the amplifiers giving much greater strength and the one piece housing for the remote control that looks, feels and genuinely is robust.
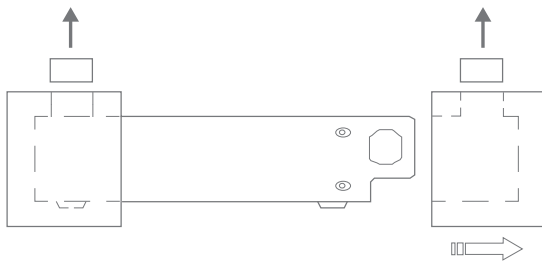
As with music that you are not familiar with, truly innovative new designs can take time to understand and enjoy.  How often have you heard music that you were first unsure of, that over repeated listening, has become a firm favourite?

Our designs are fundamentally different to many other companies, and we hope that you will take the time to explore their unique character and qualities because we have not made them different simply to be different.  We genuinely believe that their visual and tactile qualities do improve the experience of listening to music and that is our design goal!

Ross Stevens
DESIGN DIRECTOR

# Unpacking



Open the box from the top and remove the accessories from the foam end caps. You may now proceed to lift the unit from the box,  Once the unit is removed you can proceed with the removal of the foam end caps. These caps are designed to fit on the front and back of the unit for maximum protection. Retain the packaging for future transportation of this unit.

# Placement & Ventilation

This Plinius product may operate at a moderately high temperature, especially during extended listening sessions.  With this in mind, we recommend the following guidelines for placement and ventilation:

- The ideal location is upon a rigid stand, away from direct contact with any temperature sensitive materials, furniture or deep pile carpets.
- Ventilation through and around the amplifier should be kept unimpeded.
- Ensure heat vents (slots in the lid) are not covered or restricted in any way.
- Equipment racks should be of an open type with no closed side panels and no closed front or rear panels. Ensure a minimum of 100mm clearance on all sides of your Plinius unit to other equipment and the shelf above. If the unit is in an enclosed cabinet, the clearance should be greater than 200mm on all sides.  Ensure the space between the chassis and shelf below the unit is unobstructed at all times.
- When stacking separate audio components, apply the minimum clearances above, as well as a minimum of 400mm clearance above the top unit for suitable airflow.
- NOTE: This unit has been designed for use in moderate climates only, not for tropical conditions.

The design of this Plinius product incorporates a very high level of mechanical decoupling of the input and output.  It can however still be influenced by acoustical feedback in the operating environment.  The use of acoustic cones or a suitably spiked amplifier stand or table may further enhance the performance of this amplifier. Consult your Plinius dealer for further advice if required.

# Care & Maintenance

With simple care and maintenance your Plinius product can be kept looking and operating like new for many years to come.

### MAINTAINING THE CONNECTORS

Exposed connectors such as the RCA connectors will be subject to environmental factors, and over time the surface may degrade. This can be greatly reduced by fitting readily available 'RCA caps' to reduce the effects of environmental elements on the RCA connectors. These RCA caps or RCA shorting caps can also provide sonic benefits. Connector cleaning products are also available to clean the RCA and cable connectors and frequent checks and cleaning will help maintain a good signal connection.

NOTE: DO NOT use RCA shorting caps on output connectors or power amplifier input connectors. Use RCA shorting caps on unused preamplifier stage input connectors only. Standard RCA shielding caps can be used on any unused input or output connectors.

### MAINTAINING THE SWITCHES

Switches should be maintained by using each various switch setting periodically. Even if a switch or a switch setting is not used, it is a good idea to toggle small switches and turn rotary switches though the full range of the switch several times in succession to keep the contacts active. Performing this simple action will promote longevity of the switch contacts.

### SURFACE CLEANING

From time to time you may wish to clean the surface of your Plinius equipment to remove dust, or any material build up from the atmosphere or on commonly used controls. Your Plinius product is made up of parts that have a hard anodised or a powder coat finish and will clean easily without being damaged.

Cleaning should be carried out using a soft cleaning cloth, dry or with either a small amount of water or a very mild surface cleaner, while observing the following guidelines:
- As a safety precaution, always switch the equipment off prior to cleaning
- Always use a cloth that is soft and clean
- Never use abrasives or polishing compounds anywhere on the unit
- Never apply liquid directly to the surface of the unit
- Use the cloth dry or with mild surface cleaners of either liquid or foaming type
- Apply only small amounts of cleaner to the cloth
- DO NOT rub the surface but wipe clean only. Excessive rubbing may dull powder coat or wear the screen printed text.

# Precautions

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS
BEFORE OPERATING YOUR NEW NETWORK AUDIO PLAYER.

- DO NOT leave flammable material on the network audio player whilst running, as this could pose a serious fire risk.

- The Tiki Network Audio Player operates at hazardous voltage levels.  There are some alterations that may be made by you, the owner.  However, we recommend that any work requiring removal of the lid be referred to a suitably qualified and experienced service technician.

- DO NOT attempt to connect any input of this network audio player to its own outputs.

- DO NOT earth any output terminal or connect any of these terminals together without following the instructions in this manual or seeking qualified assistance.

- DO NOT place this network audio player in any position where liquids, or any foreign material may accidentally enter it.

- DO NOT connect any voltage source, short circuit, earth/ground or appliance (other than suitable audio preamplifiers) to the Tiki Network Audio Player output terminals.

- DO NOT expose the unit to dripping or splashing.

- DO NOT place objects filled with liquids on the unit, e.g. vases.

- DO NOT place sources of naked flame on the unit, e.g. candles.
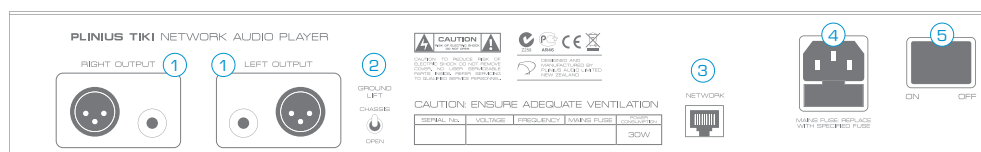
# Front Panel Functions

### 1. DISPLAY LED

An LED on the front panel indicates that the power is on.  When first switched on, the display LED will immediately light and will remain lit during the time the network audio player is powered on.
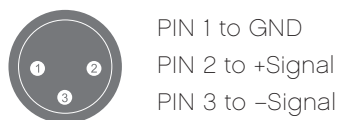


# Rear Panel Functions

This panel incorporates the terminal for connecting the input signal from a Network storage device, outputs to the preamplifier, ground lift switch and also the mains supply. Please remember that your Plinius Tiki Network Audio Player is a high quality electronic instrument. Be sure that you understand your system's requirements fully before you make any connection to this network audio player.



### 1. OUTPUT TERMINALS

Connections for preamplifiers or integrated amplifiers are provided on the rear panel. Connections are available for analogue single ended RCA and balanced XLR cables.

The XLR output pin configuration used in all Plinius product is:



PIN 1 to GND
PIN 2 to +Signal
PIN 3 to –Signal

NOTE: Because of the way balanced XLR outputs are configured it is not possible to connect both XLR and RCA at the same time.

### 2. GROUND LIFT SWITCH

This switch allows the signal ground to be disconnected from the chassis. In some installations, a hum loop may exist due to duplicate ground paths from different equipment. Use this switch to remove the connection from 0V to ground thus allowing some flexibility in your particular set-up.

### 3. ETHERNET INPUT CONNECTOR

The RJ45 Ethernet connector allows connection to the Router or Computer Network Device.

### 4. MAINS POWER CORD IEC CONNECTOR

This connector is where the mains supply cable from your wall connects to the network audio player. You will notice that a fuse holder is mounted within this connection, and it holds a mains fuse to provide surge and overload protection for your network audio player.

### 5. MAINS SWITCH

The heavy-duty rocker switch on the right of the panel diagram turns the Mains/ Line Power to the network audio player ON or OFF. For your safety, this switch should remain accessible at all times in case of an emergency.

# Installation & Operation

⚠️ **WARNING: RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK.  TERMINALS MARKED WITH ⚡ SHOULD BE CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS LIVE AT ALL TIMES.**

This network audio player operates at hazardous voltage levels.  We recommend that any work requiring removal of the lid be referred to a suitably qualified and experienced service technician. DO NOT place this network audio player in any position where liquids or any foreign material may accidentally enter it.
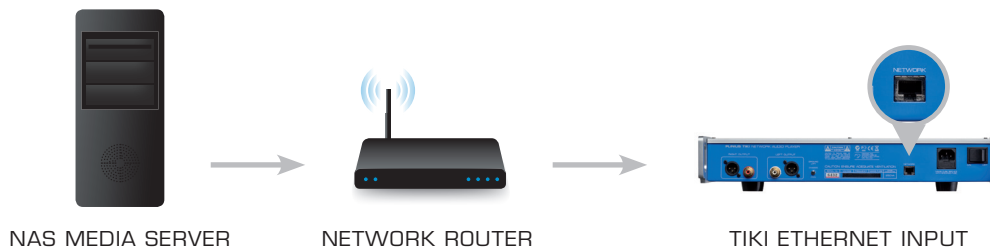
⚠️ **PLEASE READ & UNDERSTAND THE PRECAUTIONS WITHIN THIS MANUAL FOR CORRECT PLACEMENT & OPERATION OF THIS PRODUCT.**

## CONNECTIONS

Connections to your Plinius Tiki Network Audio Player should be made in the same order as they are listed in this section. DO NOT attempt to connect your Tiki Network Audio Player until you have read and fully understood these instructions. Although these instructions refer to the connection of the Plinius Tiki to a preamplifier, the Tiki can also be safely installed into multimedia systems by following the same installation guidelines. Should you require any further assistance, please contact your Plinius dealer.

## ETHERNET INPUT

Connect your Network device (Router, Computer etc) to the Ethernet input on the back the Plinius Tiki using suitable CAT-5 or CAT6 Ethernet cables only. Make sure the connector is a snug fit and inserted all the way in.



NAS MEDIA SERVER            NETWORK ROUTER                    TIKI ETHERNET INPUT

## OUTPUT TERMINALS

The connection of the outputs of the Tiki Network Audio Player must be made by an 'instructed person' or by suitable ready made interconnect cables only.

Connections for preamplifiers are provided at the rear of the unit. If using single-ended RCA outputs connect your Tiki to the 'line level' RCA inputs on the back of the preamplifier.  Make sure you connect the red coded cable to the red RIGHT RCA output, and the black (or white) cable to the white LEFT RCA output.  Also make sure the RCA connectors are a snug fit and are inserted all the way in.

TIKI OUTPUTS                    PREAMPLIFIER LINE INPUT

For XLR output connection, make sure you connect the RIGHT XLR output and LEFT XLR output to the right and left 'line level' inputs of your Preamplifier respectively. Also make sure the XLR connectors click into place.

NOTE: DO NOT connect XLR and RCA at the same time, use only one or the other. DO NOT connect the output of the Plinius Tiki to a preamplifier phono input. Connect only to line level inputs such as CD, Line 1, Tuner, etc.

## CONNECTING THE MAINS SUPPLY

Firstly, check that the mains supply voltage printed on the rear of this network audio player is similar to the mains supply voltage in your area. If in doubt, please consult your Plinius dealer.  Mains supply power connection is via the plug-in lead supplied with your Plinius Tiki.  Where possible, check the wall outlet is switched OFF, then connect the local mains plug end of the lead to the wall outlet.  Check the Tiki is switched OFF, and connect the IEC end of the cable to the IEC socket at the back of the Tiki.  With the cord fully connected, switch the wall outlet ON.

Now that the Plinius Tiki is configured correctly, switch the power switch on the rear panel to ON.  You can now enjoy your new Plinius Tiki Network Audio Player.

NOTE: This unit must be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection. The wall outlet socket or mains switch must be accessible at all times in case of emergency.

## WARM-UP PERIOD

You will find that the Plinius Tiki will become noticeably 'warmer' in sound after being on for a period of time. We usually recommend waiting at least 24 hours before expecting the best quality of sound reproduction from your network audio player.

# Product Features

**MAINS/LINE FUSE**

A Mains/Line fuse is fitted within the IEC socket on the rear of the power supply pack. A small drawer at the bottom of this socket may be removed (after the IEC plug is removed) by levering it out with a flat blade screwdriver.  The fuse fitted should be rated at no greater than that specified on the rear panel.

⚠️  IMPORTANT: DO NOT FIT A FUSE WITH A HIGHER RATING.

NOTE: Fuse failure may indicate a severe problem. Should the network audio player continue to exhibit mains fuse failure contact your Plinius dealer.

# Playback Control

The Plinius Tiki Network Audio Player is designed to be operated with the Plinius Arataki, however it can also be operated by other DLNA compatible media controllers.

Media controllers such as the Arataki enable browsing of the music collection, selecting music to play, and controlling playback of the music through the Tiki digital to analogue converter.

Digital media controllers can be mobile or fixed devices such as desktop computers that do not have the requirement for wireless connectivity.

# Firmware Upgrade

To ensure the best ongoing operation, firmware upgrades may become available periodically.  The upgrade process requires connection of the Tiki Network Audio Player to the Internet so it may receive the upgrade files from the Plinius upgrade server.  Your Plinius dealer can inform you of the features and benefits of a firmware upgrade, and confirm if the upgrade is applicable to your hardware.

Should you choose to apply the available upgrade, your Plinius dealer will arrange activation of the upgrade for your particular hardware.  After the upgrade has been activated at the upgrade server, you will be advised to switch off and then re-power your unit.  Once the product is re-powered, the upgrade process will begin and takes a maximum of 5 minutes.  After this time the product is ready to be used as normal. Following an upgrade you will receive advice that the upgrade process was successful. NOTE: During the upgrade do not switch off, or re-power the unit, or attempt to

operate playback functions through the unit. Should the firmware upgrade fail, you will be advised that the firmware upgrade was unsuccessful and your dealer will again have to activate the upgrade at the upgrade server.

# Troubleshooting

## NO SOUND FROM THE UNIT

If the unit is not reproducing audio take the following steps:

- Check the Tiki is correctly connected to an appropriate input on the preamplifier. Refer to the Installation & Operation section on page 9.

- Check the file from the Media Server is playing. If it has adjustable volume, check this is at full volume.

- Check the preamplifier is set to select the correct source input. Adjust the source selector for the Tiki as the source component.

- Check the volume. Turn the volume up to a point just below the normal listening level. DO NOT turn the volume up to maximum in case the sound begins to come through the speakers.

- Check the system is working with another source to confirm the fault is not due to the preamplifier or power amplifier stages.

- Check the Network components are working correctly. Ensure the Music Service is active and the control device has recognised the Tiki as the Renderer and has also recognised the Media Server Library device.

- Check the Network connections are active. Check the router is operating correctly and any wireless connections have a strong signal. Try other network connected devices to confirm connectivity across the network is active.

## POWER FAILURE

The unit may have suffered mains fuse failure. Check the mains fuse and replace if needed.

NOTE: If the unit immediately or repeatedly suffers mains fuse failure, there may be a major problem and you should contact your Plinius dealer.

# Specifications

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**
DLNA Digital Audio Player
DLNA 1.0/1.5 compatible

**AUDIO FILE SERVER**
DLNA Digital Media Servers

**PLAYBACK CONTROL**
DLNA Digital Media Controllers
UPnP Smartphone applications
UPnP iPod/iPad, iPhone applications

**DAC CAPABILITY**
24 bit, 192ks/s

**AUDIO CODEC SUPPORT**
FLAC (up to 24/192)
LPCM (up to 24/192)
AIFF, MP3, WAV

**INPUT**
1 x RJ45 connector

**CONNECTIVITY**
10/100 Ethernet

**OUTPUT:**
1 x RCA stereo Pair
1 x XLR stereo Pair

**FREQUENCY RESPONSE**
20Hz to 20kHz +/-0.2dB

**DISTORTION**
<0.01% THD at Rated Input Level

**HUM AND NOISE**
-100dB at Rated Input Level, A Weighted

**MAXIMUM OUTPUT LEVEL**
2V RMS Into 10k or Higher

**OUTPUT SOURCE IMPEDANCE**
Typically 100R

**DIMENSIONS**
Height:  80mm     (3.5")
Width:   450mm    (17.75")
Depth:   400mm    (15.75")
Weight:  5.5kg     (12lbs)

# Quick Start Guide

## COMPONENT CHECKLIST

Check you have all the components to get the system working. This list outlines the components you need, and some common examples of these components.

**THE PLAYER**............................. **DIGITAL MEDIA PLAYER**

The Plinius Tiki will perform this function.

**THE SERVER**............................. **DIGITAL MEDIA SERVER (DMS)**

This is a DLNA compatible device for storage of your music library and software to manage the files. This may be a Ripping-NAS, NAS, PC or Mac and a program such as Asset UPnP, Windows Media Player, TwonkyMedia Server etc.

**DIGITAL AUDIO FILES**

These files may be ripped from CD's you own or files you have purchased and downloaded online. You may rip the CD's using a Ripping NAS or software such as dBPowerAmp, or you may use a professional CD ripping service. NOTE: Copyrights exist around recorded music and its use. Do not rip CDs for use unless you are the owner of the original disc.

**THE CONTROLLER**............... **ARATAKI CONTROLLER**

The Arataki controller is an application (app) installed on an iPad for controlling digital audio. The Plinius Arataki app has been designed for use with Plinius digital source components but will control other DLNA compatible digital streaming devices.

**THE NETWORK**........................ **WIRELESS ROUTER**

This device connects to your Plinius Tiki and to your media server and has capability to create a wireless connection between this point and the Arataki controller.

**COMPONENT CONNECTIONS**

There are several ways to connect your components. The simplest connection is to use LAN cables between the Plinius Tiki, wireless router and media server or you may use wireless bridge devices to send and receive at each end instead of one of these LAN cables.

## COMPONENT SET UP

The component set up involves letting the components establish a connection and then navigating and controlling the files on the server using the Arataki app.

**1  CONNECT TIKI TO AUDIO SYSTEM**
Connect the Plinius Tiki audio outputs to your audio system line inputs.

**2  CONNECT TIKI TO NETWORK**
- Connect the Tiki to the network with one of the following:
  - CAT5 or CAT6 LAN Cable
  - LAN Wireless bridge.
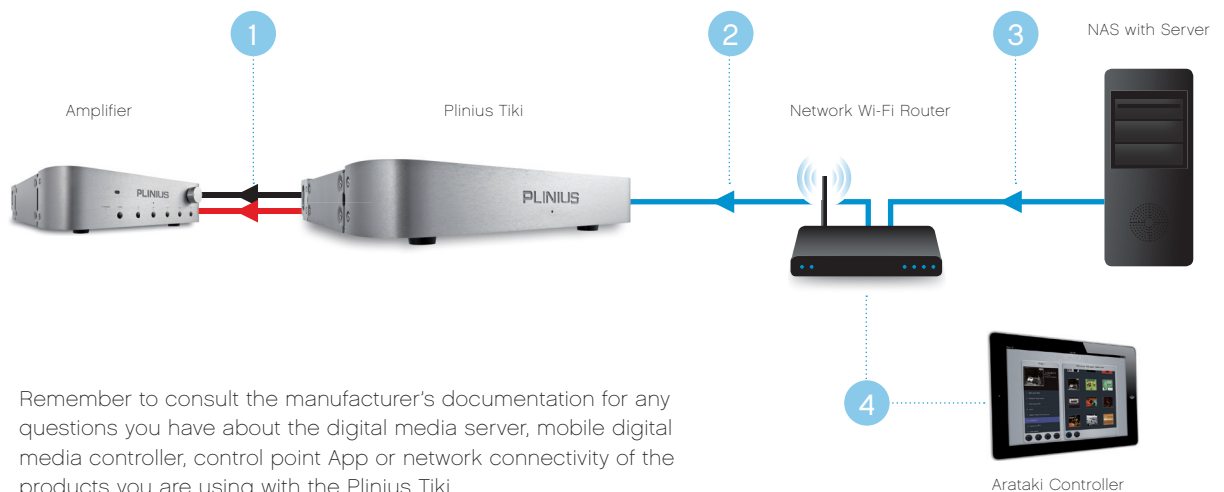- Power the Tiki ON now.

**3  CONNECT SERVER TO NETWORK**
- Connect the server to the network with one of the following:
  - CAT5 or CAT6 LAN Cable
  - Wireless LAN bridge.
- Power the network components ON.
- Power the server ON.

**4  CONNECT ARATAKI TO NETWORK**
- Take the iPad and establish a connection to the network Wi-Fi router of the Tiki system.
- Launch the Arataki app to control playback through the Tiki.
- Check the Plinius Tiki is connecting to the Arataki on the network.
- Select the Tiki as the 'active' player.
- Check the server is seeing the Arataki on the network.
- Select the server as the 'active' server device.

**5  USE YOUR PLINIUS TIKI**
Use the Arataki to browse the library of songs, select songs for playback, and control the songs as they play.



Amplifier     Plinius Tiki     Network Wi-Fi Router     NAS with Server

Arataki Controller

Remember to consult the manufacturer's documentation for any questions you have about the digital media server, mobile digital media controller, control point App or network connectivity of the products you are using with the Plinius Tiki.

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