



Antipodes Audio Music Server User Guide

v17.09

About This User Guide

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A printed version of this User Guide accompanies every Antipodes Audio Music Server sold.

This User Guide is current at the time of publication, but be aware that the software is regularly updated. You should regularly update your Antipodes software at the Antipodes GUI, and you can view or download the latest version of this User Guide at the Antipodes Audio web site at any time. If you need further assistance you should email Antipodes Support - they are there to help you whenever you get stuck with anything

Note that Antipodes Audio music server software comprises three types of software that you will use:

- 1. The Antipodes GUI.** This User Guide contains complete step-by-step instructions for how to use the Antipodes GUI to setup and manage your music server.
- 2. File Sharing.** Antipodes Audio music servers are SMB compliant meaning you can manage music files on your music server using a computer or tablet attached to the same network. This avoids you needing to attach a keyboard, mouse or screen to the music server. Therefore it is very simple to copy, delete, rename, backup and re-tag your music files, and it is easy to download music direct to your music server, without needing to physically interact with the music server. It can all be done remotely from another computing device while your music server remains in your system. This User Guide explains how this works and provides examples. Because you will be using third-party applications, such as File Explorer on your Windows computer or Finder on your Mac computer, and these applications are subject to change and variations in setup, this User Guide can only provide examples to illustrate how to complete these tasks.
- 3. Third-Party Applications.** Some music servers lock you into music player applications that are proprietary to the manufacturer of the music server. Antipodes Audio takes the opposite approach and focuses on fully integrating best of breed third-party music playback applications, and optimising the sound quality you can get from them. For this reason, this User Guide cannot provide you with complete and always up-to-date guides for each of these third-party applications. This User Guide covers getting started with each of the third-party applications. As well as contacting Antipodes Support, you can visit the web site of the application developer to access guides and get application support.

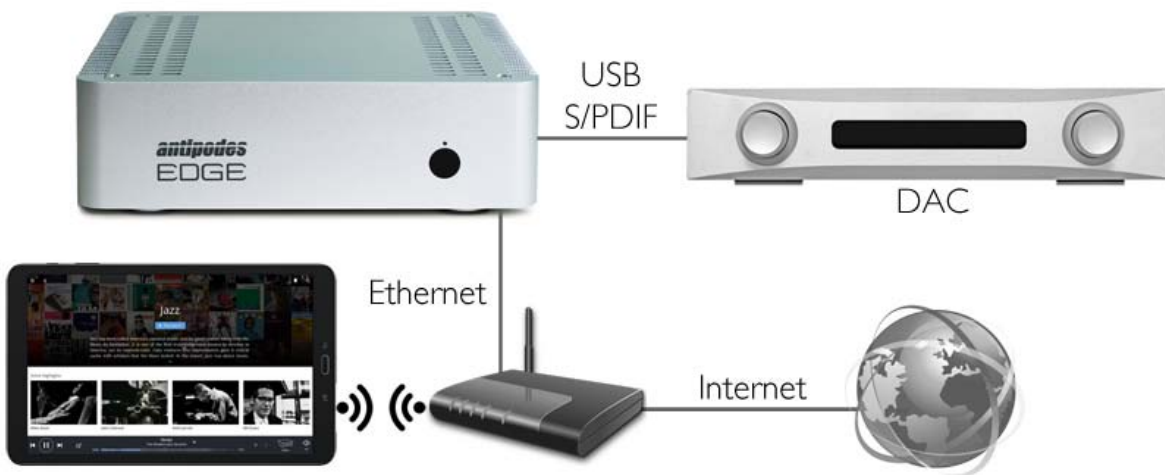
Table of Contents

1	<i>Installation & Turning On/Off</i>	<i>1</i>	8	<i>Managing Applications</i>	<i>47</i>
	Installation	1		Updating The Software Suite	47
	Turning On/Off	2		Installing Applications	48
				Uninstalling Applications	49
2	<i>Opening The Antipodes GUI</i>	<i>3</i>			
3	<i>Playback Solutions Overview</i>	<i>4</i>	9	<i>Administration Applications</i>	<i>51</i>
4	<i>Setting Up A Renderer</i>	<i>5</i>		Introduction	51
	Introduction	5		9.1 FLAC Mirror	52
	4.1 Setup Roon Ready	6		9.2 Storage Backup	53
	4.2 Setup Squeezelite	7		9.3 System Information	56
	4.3 Setup MPD	8		Local Storage	56
	4.4 Switch Between Apps	9		Localisation	56
				Network System Name.	57
5	<i>Setup Remote Control</i>	<i>10</i>			
	Introduction	10	INDEX		<i>58</i>
	5.1 Setup Control Of Roon	11			
	5.2 Setup Control Of Squeezebox	13			
	5.3 Setup Control Of MPD	19			
6	<i>Add Music To The Server Library</i>	<i>21</i>			
	Introduction	21			
	6.1 Import Music From Your CDs	22			
	6.2 Copy Music To The Server	23			
	6.3 Download Music To The Server	24			
	6.4 Mount External Storage	25			
7	<i>Other Playback Solutions</i>	<i>27</i>			
	Introduction	27			
	7.1 MinimServer	28			
	7.2 BubbleUPnP	30			
	7.3 Plex Media Server	33			
	7.4 SONOS Integration	40			
	7.5 HQPlayer NAA	41			

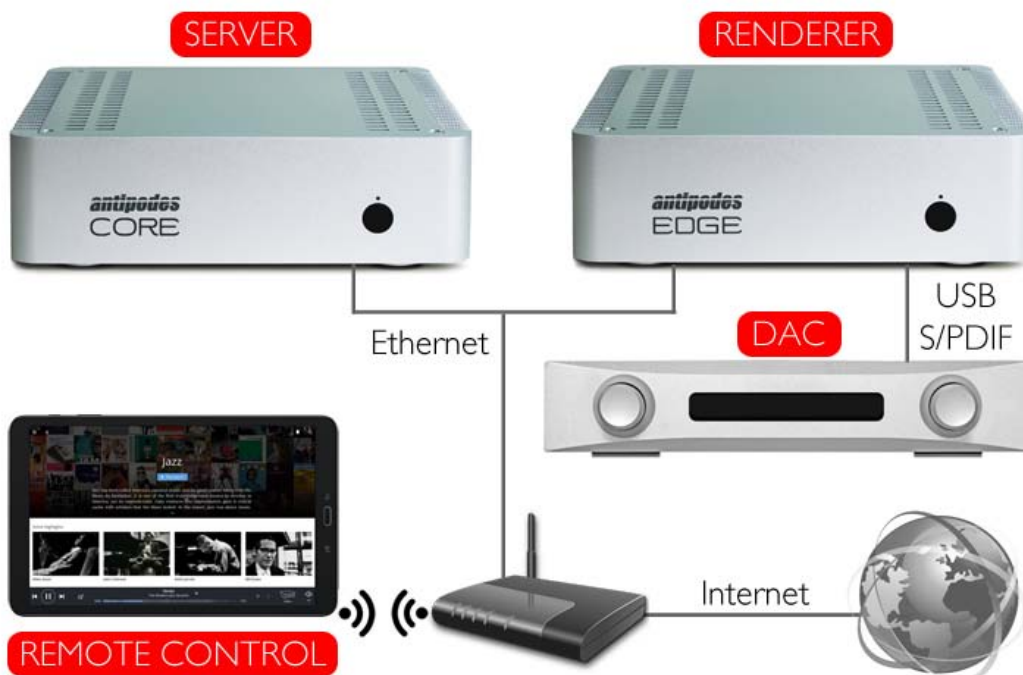
DX Gen2 Rear Panel



ONE-BOX INSTALLATION



TWO-BOX INSTALLATION



1 Installation & Turning On/Off

INSTALLATION

In most cases you will be using the music server to play direct to a DAC. See One-Box Installation below for this case. See Multi-Box Installation below where you are using separate renderers from the server.

Set the Antipodes on its own shelf with good ventilation.

ONE-BOX INSTALLATION

Connections

Make 3 connections to the back panel of the Antipodes:

1. Mains power (for models with internal power supplies) or DC from the External PSU (all other models)
2. Wired Ethernet connection to your network
3. Signal output to your audio system - USB, S/PDIF, AES3 or Analog as fitted.

MULTI-BOX INSTALLATION

Connections

Make 2 connections to the back panel of the Antipodes that will run the Server application.

1. Mains power (for models with internal power supplies) or DC from the External PSU (all other models)
2. Wired Ethernet connection to your network

Make 3 connections to the back panel of the Antipodes that will run Renderer applications:

1. Mains power (for models with internal power supplies) or DC from the External PSU (all other models)
2. Wired Ethernet connection to your network
3. Signal output to your audio system - USB, S/PDIF, AES3 or Analog as fitted.

CABLES

Audiophile cables - power, Ethernet, USB, S/PDIF, AES3 - will generally improve sound quality.

One reason is the reduction in noise interference. All cables are both an antenna and transmitter to some degree and will pick up noise and transmit noise to nearby cabling.

Another reason is that the crystal and lattice structures of the metal wires have an impact on perceived sound quality. Wires with poor crystal or lattice structures create obstacles to the flow of electrons and the small eddy current effects are surprisingly audible.

Another reason is that the cable insulation can never absorb and release the field surrounding the wire as quickly as the signal changes in the wire itself, causing the signal to be smeared in time.

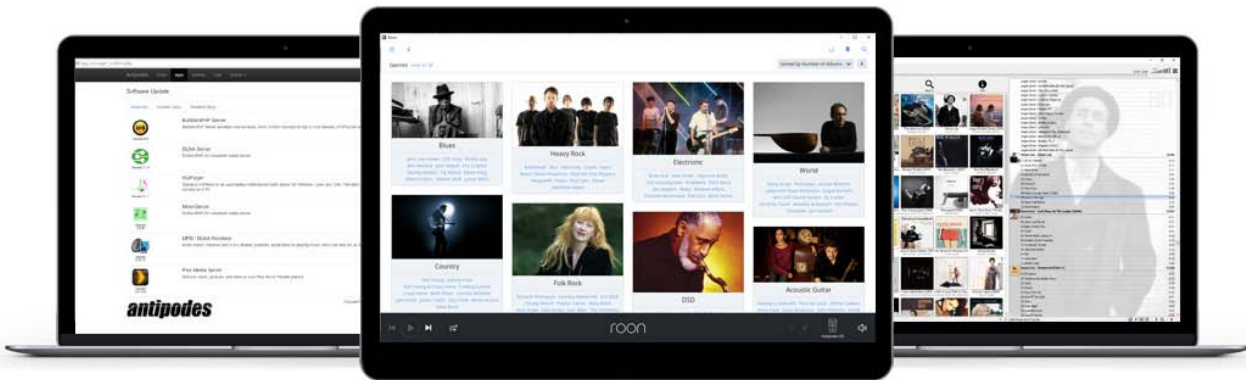
Audiophile cabling is designed to reduce these impacts and some firms do a better job than others. Let your ears be the judge, but do try better cabling.

NETWORK

Just because you successfully browse the internet, does not mean your network is of suitable quality to run a demanding client-server application. A small investment in your network setup may pay large dividends in the user experience.

Antipodes music servers are controlled over your network from computers, tablets or smartphones so must be connected to your network. Ripping CDs requires a connection to the internet to gather metadata.

Ideally, get an expert to install wired Ethernet from your router to your audio system as this will give you the best performance, particularly for internet streaming services. If that is not practical then you can bridge between your audio system and your router by using wifi access bridges or powerplugs, but performance may or may not suffer, depending on the circumstances.



TURNING ON & OFF

To power on an Antipodes music server, first make the rear panel connections and ensure the power supply is on. Then click the front panel power button briefly, and wait 2 minutes for the Antipodes to power up fully before proceeding.

To power off an Antipodes music server, click the front panel power button briefly, and wait a few seconds till the front power light extinguishes. Note that a minor incompatibility in the design of your DAC's USB input may hold a service open on the Antipodes and prevent shutdown, and the power light will remain on. If this happens, power off by clicking the front panel switch, wait 20 seconds and then complete the shutdown by holding the front panel button in until the power light goes off.

Only after the power light has gone off is it safe to remove power from the rear of the Antipodes. Failure to shutdown correctly may require the Antipodes to be serviced.

StandBy Mode

To maximise sound quality all critical power supply capacitors remain powered when power is applied to the rear of the Antipodes, even when the Antipodes is off at the front panel. This is called standby mode.

If you wish to shutdown your Antipodes for extended periods we recommend you leave the Antipodes in standby mode, that is, powered at the rear of the Antipodes. If power is removed for more than a few

minutes, the Antipodes may take up to three days of being powered to return to its optimum sound quality. Leaving the Antipodes in standby mode avoids this warm-up period.

There is a downside to putting your Antipodes into standby mode with some DACs, due to the way different DACs are designed. Your DAC may power down its USB input when you put the Antipodes into standby and may fail to power the USB input back up again when the Antipodes is restarted. The problem is caused by poor design of the DAC's USB input.

The simplest solution is to restart your DAC after restarting your Antipodes. Restarting your DAC may mean turning it off at the back panel and back on again. And DACs with external power supplies may need the power to be turned off and on again at the external power supply, or at the wall if it does not have a power switch.

Burn In Period

Your Antipodes music server will only reach peak performance after about two full weeks of use. During the first 100 hours of use the sound can be relatively poor. At around 250 hours the sound will be good. Small improvements will be heard after that, perhaps for a month or more.

The reason for this is that the high quality capacitors used take a long time to form and therefore for the power supplies to fully stabilise. Digital circuits need very nearly perfect power supplies before they can perform as designed.

2 Opening The Antipodes GUI

You never need to connect a mouse, keyboard or screen to an Antipodes music server. To setup an Antipodes music server, make the connections described in the previous section, then turn your Antipodes on and wait 2 minutes.

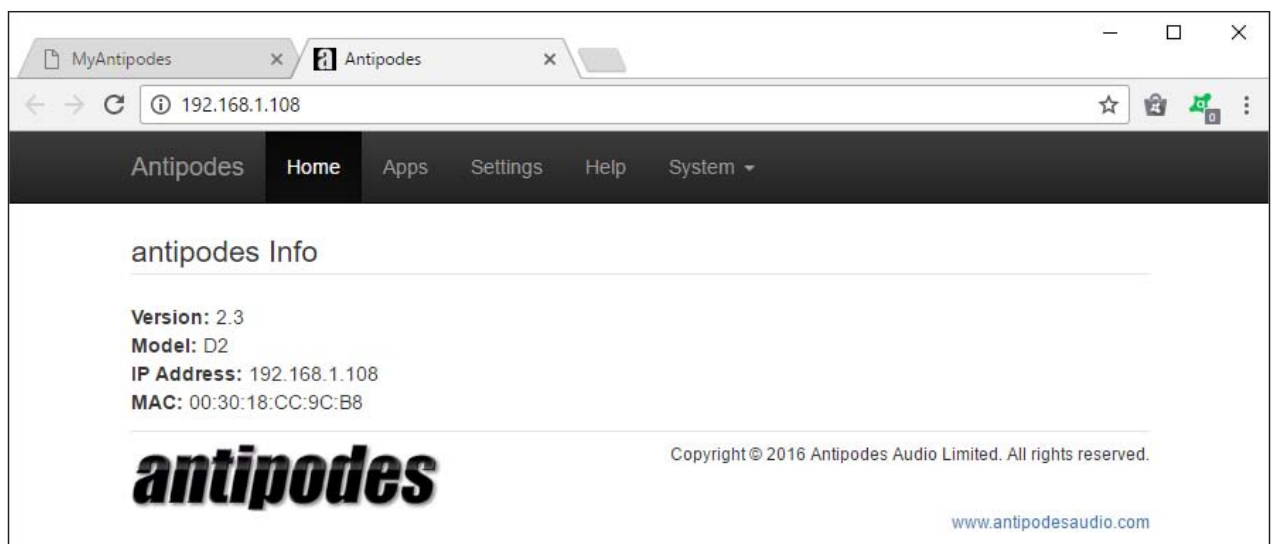
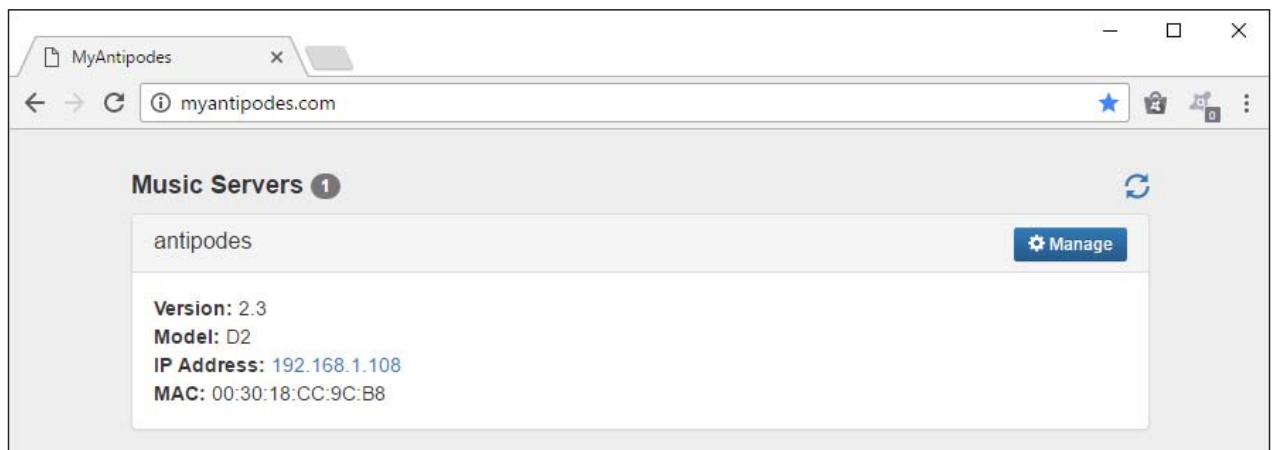
Open a browser (eg. IE, Chrome, Firefox Safari etc) on a computing device (eg. desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone) and browse to this address:

myantipodes.com

Click on the 'Manage' button to open the Antipodes GUI for that music server.

The GUI is intuitive and you can just look around and try things.

The next sections show you some basics for getting started with playing music. If you cannot open the GUI for any reason or are confused about how to accomplish something in the GUI, please contact Antipodes Support for assistance first.



3 Playback Solutions Overview

Playback solutions typically require two applications:

- a server application for managing your files and for selecting what plays; and
- a renderer application that turns the file into a music signal and sends it to your DAC.

With Antipodes music servers you can choose to run both the server app and the renderer app on the same device, for a simple and complete solution.

Or you can run them on separate devices. For example the server app might run on one Antipodes and the renderer app might run on another Antipodes.

Or you might do both:

- run the server application on one Antipodes;
- run the renderer application on the same Antipodes to play direct to a DAC; and
- run the renderer application on other Antipodes devices on your network to play from the library on the first Antipodes.

Most of this guide refers to running both the server app and the renderer app on the same device, but the principles are the same for the other options.

With Antipodes music servers, you have the choice of:

- Three complete playback solutions (incorporating both server & renderer apps):
 - **Roon** - Roon Server & Roon Ready
 - **Squeezebox** - Squeezebox Server & Squeezelite
 - **MPD** - A special case as it is just a renderer app but it can play from the Antipodes library.
- Two separate renderer solutions.
 - The **HQPlayer NAA** solution enables your Antipodes to be a renderer to play from HQPlayer. HQPlayer (the server app) needs to be running on computer elsewhere on your network.
 - The **MPD** solution enables your Antipodes to be a renderer to play from a DLNA/UPnP server on your network. The server app could be on an Antipodes or on another device.
- A range of server solutions, including **DLNA/UPnP** and **Plex Media Server**, *plus* your Antipodes can be easily configured to be a music source for a **SONOS** system.



The most popular playback solutions on Antipodes music servers are Roon (for which you need to obtain a subscription), and free options Squeezebox and MPD.

Therefore the early parts of this guide cover these three most popular solutions.

The other solutions are covered later in the guide, and remember, you can use as many solutions at the same time as the number of renderer devices you have.

To start playing music using Roon, Squeezebox or MPD, there are three setup steps:

1. Setup the renderer app.
2. Setup remote control of the server app.
3. Get your music into the server app's library.

The next sections of this guide cover these three steps for the three popular playback solutions, to get you underway playing music with your Antipodes.