SILENT ANGEL
RHEIN Z1 V2

The Silent Angel Rhein Z1 V2 is called a music server. But it perhaps is better thought of as an interface to digital music within—and without—your system.

THE EQUIPMENT

To understand the Silent Angel Rhein Z1 V2, it's probably best that I simply describe what it does and how you use it.

First, you connect it to your home network via Ethernet. None of that Wi-Fi stuff here. The Ethernet is gigabit speed. Take it from me: there is no audio format that will come anywhere close to challenging the speed of a gigabit connection.

Inside it is a 250GB system solid-state drive. This is primarily for holding the VitOS operating system. VitOS itself is a customised Linux based operating system designed for music players, so this combination is designed to prioritise music performance—so no interruptions while your Windows or Mac computer goes off to do something else it considers more important. My review unit was running VitOS-1.1.1414.

That's it for storage in the standard unit. But you can option it up with a 1TB Silent Angel customised solid-state disc to store your music on. If that's enough.

I am told that most audiophiles who buy the Rhein Z1 V2 buy the basic unit and keep their music on network attached storage. That makes sense because it makes upgrades easy. Just keep the music on the NAS (upgrading the storage as required, and with it secured by some kind of RAID disc arrangement) and simply change the playing hardware and software as required. Hearing that made sense to me, because that's what I do, but it's good to hear that it's a preference for others as well.

Now you can manage all this yourself, or you can subscribe to the ROON player and server system, because the Silent Angel Rhein Z1 V2 fully supports the ROON system. This is much used amongst those who want to combine top-end, bit-perfect audio performance with ease of use. I haven't stumbled, yet, onto that boat, though one day I may.

> The Silent Angel Rhein Z1 V2 fully supports the ROON system, much used by those who want ease of use