



Welcome to the AVTech Awards for 2016/17, where once again the UK's trio of premium AV magazine brands – *Hi-Fi Choice*, *Home Cinema Choice* and *Hi-Fi News & Record Review* – come together to celebrate the very best hardware you can buy.

Best Hub-Powered USB DAC

AudioQuest DragonFly Red 1.0



The attractive DragonFly Red 1.0 DAC/headphone amplifier is no larger than a USB thumb-drive, and designed to boost digital audio anywhere, whether used with headphones or to feed a conventional hi-fi system. The Red employs an ESS Sabre 9016 32-bit chip to handle 24-bit/96kHz PCM files; cleverly, the logo on the case changes colour to indicate different sample rates. Bypassing the computer headphone output in favour of a USB/AQ Red combination typically benefits noise levels, delivering music files with a great sense of presence, textural richness, speed and attack. With sufficient power to drive even the most demanding headphones, the AudioQuest Red 1.0 is the flexible choice for computer audio fans.