

# TOKO

*Digital Audio Player  
Instruction Manual*



**PLINIUS**

*The heart of music*  
[www.pliniusaudio.com](http://www.pliniusaudio.com)



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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 Toko Digital Audio Player.

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

We have designed and manufactured this product 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 Toko Digital Audio Player will provide years of high-quality, trouble-free performance.



PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS MANUAL THOROUGHLY BEFORE USING YOUR DIGITAL 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.

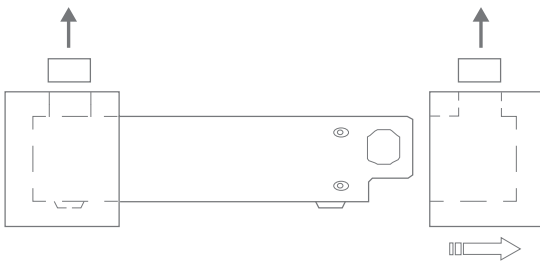
As with music that you are not familiar with, truly innovative new designs can take time to understand and enjoy. How often have you heard music that you were first unsure of, that over repeated listening, has become a firm favourite?

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 base and 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 400mm 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 digital audio player. 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 through 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 before 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 DIGITAL AUDIO PLAYER.

- This Digital 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 earth any output terminals or connect any of these terminals together without following the instructions in this manual or seeking qualified assistance.
- DO NOT place this Digital 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 Toko Digital Audio Player output terminals.
- DO NOT use discs that are scratched or damaged. This may lead to unintended operation or malfunction.
- 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.





the display easier from a distance. For example a CD with a total of 18 tracks, LEDs 1, 5, 10, 15 and 18 will be lit.



**39 TRACKS OR LESS:**

LED 1 will be lit. Every fifth LED in between 1 and the final track will also be lit. When a track above number 20 is being played, the 20+ LED will be lit and vary in brightness along with the appropriate LED between 1 and 20. For example, playing track 23 on a CD containing 32 tracks would show LEDs 20+ and 3 lit and varying in brightness in unison to indicate the track playing, plus LED's 1, 5, 10 and 12 are also lit to show the track quantity.



**MORE THAN 40 TRACKS:**

When a track above number 39 is being played, all display LEDs will go out, except for 20+, which will flash on and off. In all cases when the track being played is paused, the corresponding track LED will flash.



**REPEAT FUNCTION:**

The Repeat LED will light if the repeat function is chosen.

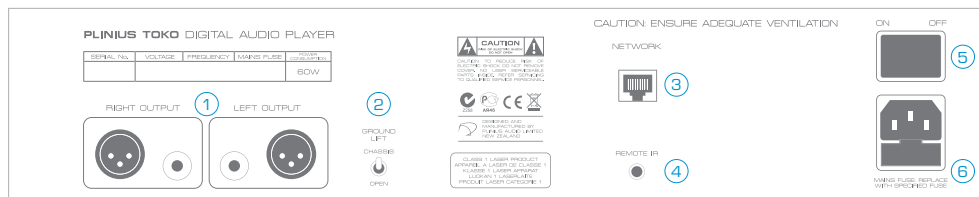


NOTE: If a CD is in the player, track information can be displayed while in Network mode.

# Rear Panel Functions

The rear panel incorporates all the terminals for connecting the network audio stream to the Toko, the output signal to your preamplifier, AV receiver or integrated amplifier and connection to the mains supply.

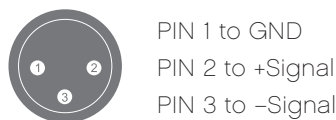
Please remember that your Plinius Toko Digital Audio Player is a high quality electronic instrument capable of an exceptional level of performance. Be sure that you understand your system's requirements fully before you make any connection to this Digital Audio Player.



## 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. Note that the only time the analogue outputs are 'live' is when the network mode is active and when the Digital Audio Player is playing a track.

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



NOTE: Because of the way balanced XLR outputs are configured it is not recommended 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. NETWORK INPUT CONNECTOR

The RJ45 connector allows connection to the Router or Computer Network Device. This is a standard connector for use with CAT5 or CAT6 LAN cable.

#### **4. REMOTE IR SOCKET**

This socket is for connecting to an external remote control sender. Some companies manufacture these devices to enable multi-room remote control. Please see your Plinius dealer for further advice.

#### **5. MAINS SWITCH**

The heavy-duty rocker switch turns the Mains/Line Power to the amplifier ON or OFF. The amplifier draws a moderately high current when switched on, so it is not good practice to rapidly turn the Mains switch on and off repeatedly.

#### **6. MAINS POWER CORD IEC SOCKET**

This connector is where the mains supply cable from your wall connects to the Digital Audio Player. A fuse holder is mounted within this connection, and it holds a mains fuse to provide surge and overload protection for your Digital Audio Player.

# Remote Control Functions

The Toko features a full function remote to control all actions of the unit. This section details the buttons of the Toko remote and how they are used.

## 1. REPEAT

Press this button and the repeat light on the front panel will light up. The Toko will now play all tracks on the CD as normal, and then repeat all tracks from track 1 in an endless loop. It does not repeat one track only, it repeats the entire contents of the CD.

## 2. DISPLAY

The display button on the remote enables you to quickly adjust the display brightness. Use this button to toggle between high, low, and off settings. Note that whenever a CD is ejected, the display will automatically revert to full brightness.

## 3. CUE BUTTONS

Use these two buttons to cue through the track you are listening to. Press and hold the right side button to cue forward through the track, or press and hold the left side button to cue backwards through the track. Once the start or end of the track is reached, Cue will continue into the next track.

## 4. TRACK BUTTONS

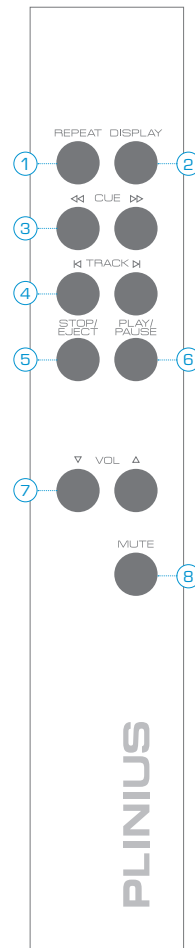
Use these two buttons to go forward (right side button) or back (left side button) through the tracks on the CD. Press the button once to skip to the next track on the CD, or hold down to skip through multiple tracks. The track currently selected will be brightly lit. When playing a CD, press the back button once to revert to the start of the current track. Pressing the back button a second time will skip back to the previous track.

## 5. STOP/EJECT

If the Digital Audio Player is playing a CD, pressing this button will stop play and return to track 1. Pressing the button a second time will eject the CD. NOTE: if the disc is ejected and not removed fully, the transport mechanism will automatically draw the disc back inside the unit.

## 6. PLAY/PAUSE

Press the Play button to begin playing the CD at the track selected. The display LED corresponding to the track that is being played will vary in brightness. Press the Play button again, and the track will pause, designated by the LED flashing.



## **7. VOLUME CONTROL**

Use these two buttons to control the volume level of a Plinius integrated amplifier or preamplifier. The right side button increases volume, while the left side button decreases the volume. Briefly press either button to make fine adjustments to the volume level. Hold down either button to continually adjust the volume level.

Note that these buttons do not control the Toko Digital Audio Player, and are included only to remove the need for two remotes, if more than one Plinius product is in your system.

## **8. MUTE**

Pressing this button toggles a Plinius integrated amplifier or preamplifier in and out of mute. Note that this button does not control the Toko Digital Audio Player, and is included only to remove the need for two remotes, if more than one Plinius product is in your system.

# Network Playback Control

The Plinius Toko 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 Toko 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 Toko 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.



**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.

# Installation & Operation



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

This Digital 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 Digital Audio Player in any position where liquids or any foreign material may accidentally enter it.



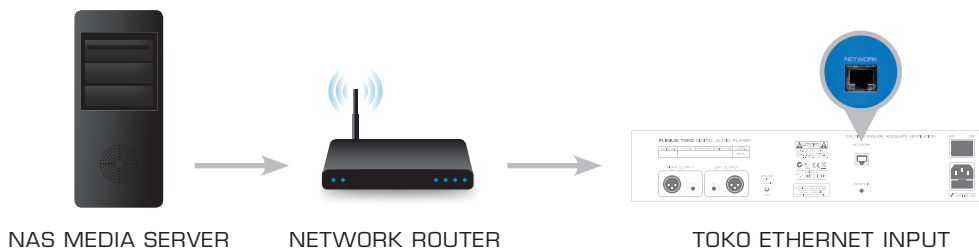
**PLEASE READ & UNDERSTAND THE PRECAUTIONS WITHIN THIS MANUAL FOR PLACEMENT & OPERATION OF THIS PRODUCT.**

## CONNECTIONS

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

## NETWORK INPUT

Connect your Network device (Router, Computer etc) to the Network input on the back of the Plinius Toko using suitable CAT5 or CAT6 Ethernet cables only. Make sure the connector is a snug fit and inserted all the way in.



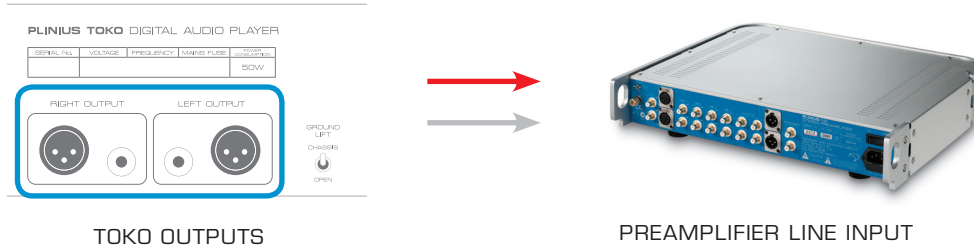
## OUTPUT TERMINALS

The connection of the outputs of the Plinius Toko must be made by an 'instructed person' or by suitable ready made interconnect cables only. Connections for preamplifiers or integrated amplifiers are provided to the left of the rear panel. Connections are available for analogue single ended RCA, and balanced XLR cables.

If using single-ended RCA outputs, connect your Toko to the 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 black LEFT RCA output. Also make



sure the RCA connectors are a snug fit and are inserted all the way in. For XLR connection, make sure you connect the RIGHT XLR output and LEFT XLR output of the Toko to the right and left 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.

### TERMINATION QUALITY

Quality of the connections must be examined to ensure that high-performance, trouble-free operation is enjoyed. Check that all interconnection cables are snug fitting and inserted all the way in. In the case of balanced XLR sockets, ensure that they click in positively.

### CONNECTING THE MAINS SUPPLY

Firstly, check that the mains supply voltage printed on the rear of this unit 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 Toko Digital Audio Player.

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 unit is switched OFF, and connect the IEC end of the cable to the IEC socket at the back of the Toko. With the cord fully connected, switch the wall outlet ON. Now that your Toko is configured correctly, switch the power switch on the rear panel to ON. The display LED will cycle in brightness as the internal circuitry stabilises. You can now enjoy your new Plinius Toko Digital 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 Toko will become noticeably 'purer' 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.

# Product Features

## **NETWORK AUDIO/COMPACT DISC AUDIO SELECTION**

The Toko Digital Audio Player will automatically default to Network stream mode at all times when there is no CD playing. To switch to CD Audio, insert a CD or press play with a valid CD in the unit. To switch to Network Audio, stop CD playback.

When CD playback stops as it reaches the end of the CD (unless repeat function is ON), the unit will switch to Network Audio mode by default.

## **REMOTE CONTROL**

Provided with your Plinius Toko is an 11 function remote control. Two AAA batteries power the remote, and these are replaced by removing the two screws on the base of the remote that hold the battery compartment in place. The bottom end of the remote is now free to slide out for access to the batteries. Replace the two batteries, taking care to refit the new ones with correct polarity.

## **DISPLAY STANDBY**

The display has a time out feature, which will cause the display to switch off after 10 minutes once the CD has stopped. The display will reactivate when any CD function is next used.

## **MAINS/LINE FUSE**

A Mains/Line fuse is fitted within the IEC socket on the rear of the Digital Audio Player. 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 Digital Audio Player continue to exhibit mains fuse failure contact your Plinius dealer.

## **COPY PROTECTED COMPACT DISCS**

Please understand that the Toko has been designed to meet the standards as laid out in the Redbook CD specification. Copy protected CD's do not conform to this standard, and are manufactured with deliberately introduced errors in an attempt to frustrate those who may want to make digital copies. These schemes also compromise the audio potential of the compact disc format.

The firmware in the Toko has been designed to enable most copy protected CD's to be played. However it is possible that if a non-standard CD is inserted, it may be unreadable or create errors. If this occurs the power LED will be the only LED lit after

the CD initialisation sequence. Take the CD out of the Digital Audio Player to remedy the error condition. Any issues of this nature should be made known to the retailer the disc was purchased from, and to the record company.

NOTE: Scratched or damaged discs can adversely affect the performance and function of your Toko Digital Audio Player. Should you experience problems in playing standard Redbook discs, please inspect the condition of the disc surface.

# Troubleshooting

## **NO SOUND FROM THE UNIT**

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

- Check the Toko is correctly connected to an appropriate input on the preamplifier. Refer to the Installation & Operation section.
- Check the preamplifier is set to select the correct source input. Adjust the source selector for the Toko 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 Toko is working with a CD to confirm the fault is not due to the Media Server or Network components.

## **NETWORK STREAM PLAYBACK OR DEVICE CONNECTIVITY PROBLEMS**

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

## **NO TRACK DISPLAY LEDS**

- Check a valid CD is in the transport. If the CD cannot be read, the Toko will not show any track information.
- Adjust the display brightness through the levels high, low and off in case the display has gone into standby mode.

## **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

DLNA Digital Audio Player  
DLNA 1.0/1.5 compatible

**SUPPORTED AUDIO FILE SERVER**  
DLNA Digital Media Servers

**SUPPORTED PLAYBACK CONTROL**  
DLNA Digital Media Controllers  
DLNA Mobile Digital Media Controllers  
UPnP smartphone applications  
iPad/iPod 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

**ANALOGUE 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 ohms or higher

**OUTPUT SOURCE IMPEDANCE**  
Typically 100R

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

## FLAC DECODER

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# 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 Toko 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 Toko 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 Toko, 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.

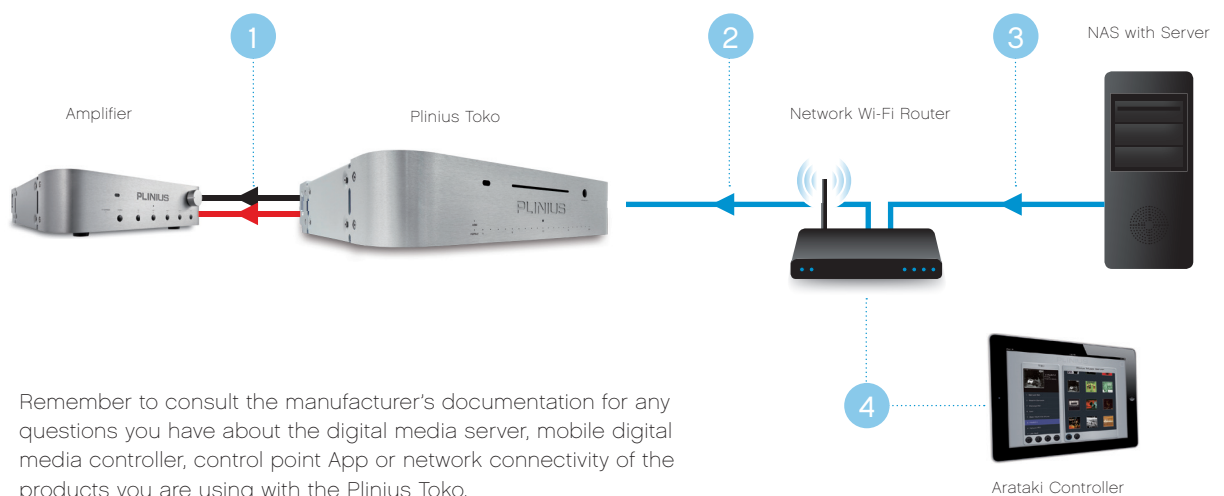
## COMPONENT SET UP

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 TOKO TO AUDIO SYSTEM**

Connect the Plinius Toko audio outputs to your audio system line inputs.
- 2 CONNECT TOKO TO NETWORK**
  - Connect the Toko to the network with one of the following:
    - CAT5 or CAT6 LAN Cable
    - LAN Wireless bridge.
  - Power the Toko 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 Toko system.
  - Launch the Arataki app to control playback through the Toko.
  - Check the Plinius Toko is connecting to the Arataki on the network.
  - Select the Toko 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 TOKO**

Use the Arataki to browse the library of songs, select songs for playback, and control the songs as they play.



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 Toko.

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