Dan Clark Audio ÆON CORE

Dan Clark Audio today announced ÆON CORE, a new closed-back planar magnetic headphone and the direct successor to the ÆON 2. Priced at $899.99, ÆON CORE introduces an all-new driver engineered for efficiency and unit-to-unit consistency, and is the first DCA headphone tuned to a revised Harman over-ear target developed in collaboration with Dr. Sean Olive.

The ÆON line has anchored Dan Clark Audio's lineup since 2017, offering reference-grade planar magnetic performance at an accessible price point. ÆON CORE carries that mission forward with meaningful advances across driver technology, voicing, and the measurement science underlying the tuning itself. ÆON CORE's planar magnetic driver stack was engineered around three priorities: efficiency, tonal consistency, and unit-to-unit reliability. The result is DCA's most easily driven headphone to date. At 97 dB/mW sensitivity, ÆON CORE pairs comfortably with portable DAC/amps, dongles, and desktop gear alike. Amplifiers delivering at least 125 mW into 16 ohms are sufficient; additional power is welcome but not required.

ÆON CORE's tuning is grounded in a corrected version of the Harman over-ear target - one that Dan Clark developed alongside Dr. Sean Olive in 2025. The original Harman curve was derived using a custom measurement pinna and an earlier

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microphone system; when that same headphone is measured today on GRAS pinnae with the now-standard RA0402 microphone, a systematic offset becomes apparent. Using the original hardware as a reference point, Clark and Olive produced an updated target that accurately translates to current measurement systems.

The practical effect is a tuning that's subtly but meaningfully different from prior ÆON models: a slightly leaner upper bass, a gently lifted lower midrange, and a softer upper midrange. Vocals sit forward without hardness. Acoustic instruments retain body and weight. Bass is taut and present without overstating itself. ÆON CORE retains the physical design that has defined the line: DCA's signature ÆON earpads, titanium headband, and self-adjusting suspension strap. The fit is immediate and fatigue-free across extended listening sessions.

ÆON CORE will be available beginning June 1, 2026 at $899.99 through Dan Clark Audio and authorized dealers worldwide.

www.danclarkaudio.com

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