



## TEST.

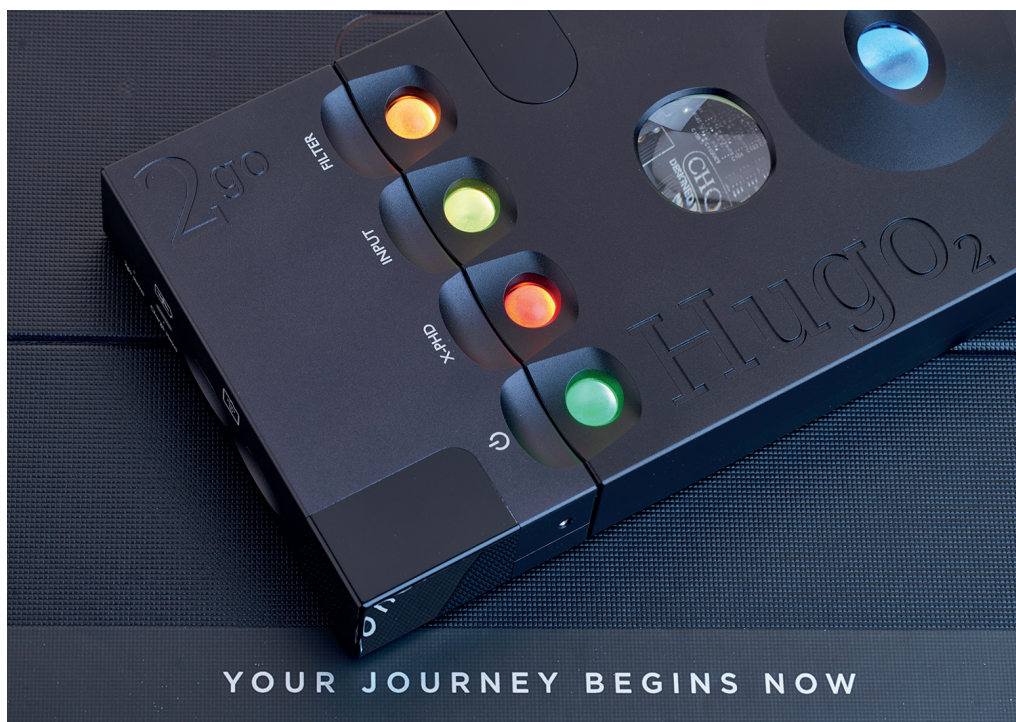
# Chord Electronics 2go

03.08.2020 // DIRK SOMMER

**The streaming module 2go was announced long ago. At the Norddeutsche Hifi-Tage I could see an early prototype, and now the extension to the HUGO 2 is available. It turns the mobile converter-headphone combination into a digital audio player - but a tablet or smartphone is still needed as display and control panel.**

As Roland Dietl's report on the HUGO 2 and the description of my experiences with a special Chord Company cable between No. 2 and Chord Electronics' M-Scaler show, the current HUGO not only makes a very good figure in mobile applications, but can also compete and beat many established stationary D/A converters - some of them in a much higher price range. On the road, however, its concept proves to be not very convenient: Only when it obtains its data from the smartphone via Bluetooth - but which audiophile can accept this transmission path? - no additional cables are needed.

However, if you want to feed the HUGO with high-resolution music data, you need an external memory, this could be a simple DAP, which bypasses the converter and headphone amplifier, or a smartphone, which can also be connected via cable and, if necessary, with an adapter. This is exactly how it was with the product one level below the Hugo2, the MOJO, which is more compact. Additional cables and players caricature the mobile concept here even more. Probably for this reason, Chord first added a small, fine streaming module to the MOJO - which should stand for "mobile joy" - the POLY, which turned the combination of converter & headphone into a digital audio player without display.



*The 2go forms a functional chain with the HUGO*

The 2go is now the counterpart to the POLY and at the sonic level of the HUGO 2: it can access data from two micro-SD cards with a total capacity of up to four terabytes, stream Internet radio via WIFI or LAN and also access NAS drives within the network. I already mentioned that it can also receive music data via Bluetooth. To set up the module, Chord offers the GoFigure app for free in the Apple App and Google Play Store. With this APP, the 2go can be given an individual name, a Wifi connection can be established or the streaming module can be set up as a separate Wifi hotspot.



*Two connectors are screwed into the HUGO, then the 2go is plugged in and secured with two allen screws*



*The electrical connection is made via the two Micro-USB plugs or sockets*

Firmware updates are also possible via GoFigure. Yes, I also read about the problems with the Poly and in the beginning also with the 2go. Since files with the ending "aiff" on the SD-Card were not recognised, but been recognised on the NAS Drive, I update to the current firmware 1.0.3 and the error was fixed. After that I could not find the slightest irregularity in all operating modes - I confess to neglected Bluetooth, so within almost all operating modes: With me all connections and the operation via the Fidata app, which I prefer over the 8player that's recommended in the manual, worked without any problems.



*Next to the two slots for the micro SD cards is the micro USB charging socket of the 2go*

Even though I have just over 1.3 terabytes of data on each of my two Melcos in the living room and office space, I was able to resist the temptation to purchase two 1-terabyte SD cards, in order to be able to use my entire music collection for the test. Firstly, one would have had to switch between the two cards via GoFigure app and secondly, cards with this capacity are still extremely expensive. Although the 2go can theoretically manage a total of four terabytes, I have not been able to find the necessary 2-terabyte cards anywhere. Anyway, I filled a 512-gigabyte card with the most important albums and shortly after that I could enjoy my favourite music in extremely good quality. Whatever came from the SD card sounded - if memory serves me right - better than anything that ever got to the HUGO via USB from iPhone or laptop - no matter if CD quality, high res or DSD256.

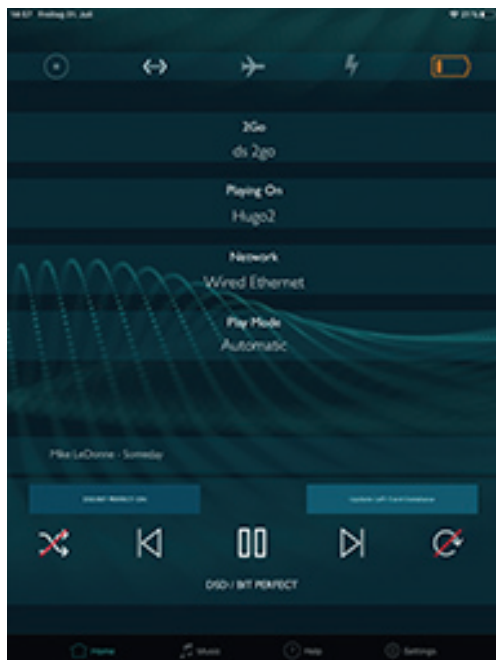


*In the petite 2go there is enough space for a LAN socket*

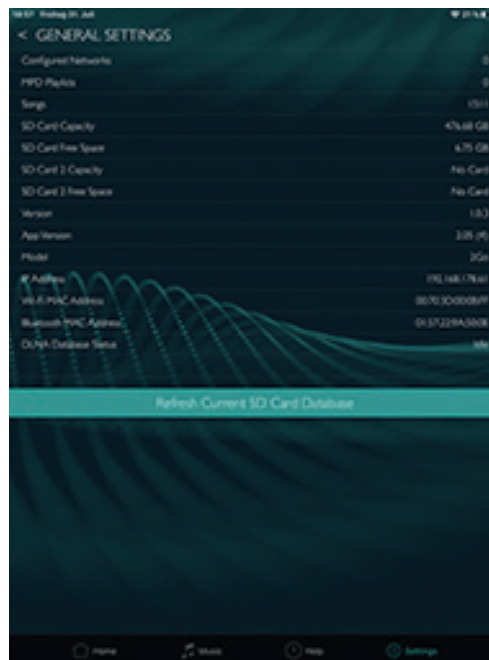
I really enjoy working with the Audeze LCD-X headphones, but to detect the smallest differences between different program sources, I prefer to rely on the Göbel Epoque Aeon Fine. So I connect the RCA outputs of the battery-powered HUGO 2 via Audioquests Sky to the Einstein preamp and the rest of the chain, and listen to a track first from the SD card, then via WiFi from the Melco N1Z H60/2. If the signal comes directly from the memory card, the HUGO 2 puts the listener in a slightly larger recording room, whose atmosphere is more intense, and spoils with an even minimally detailed playback.

This positive result encourages me to make an extremely unfair comparison: Instead of the SD card, the HUGO now receives its signal via LAN cable from the Melco NAS via the Ansuz' PowerSwitch. The HUGO 2 makes the disproportionate investment in memory and LAN switch quite clear: Although the room appears to be slightly less deep, it sounds a bit warmer when wired, the converter seems to have received a small energy boost in the bass range. This makes music even a bit more fun. Looking at the prices for an SD card on the one hand and the prices for Melco, Ansuz and the corresponding cabling on the other hand, this result is nothing but a huge compliment for the 2go!

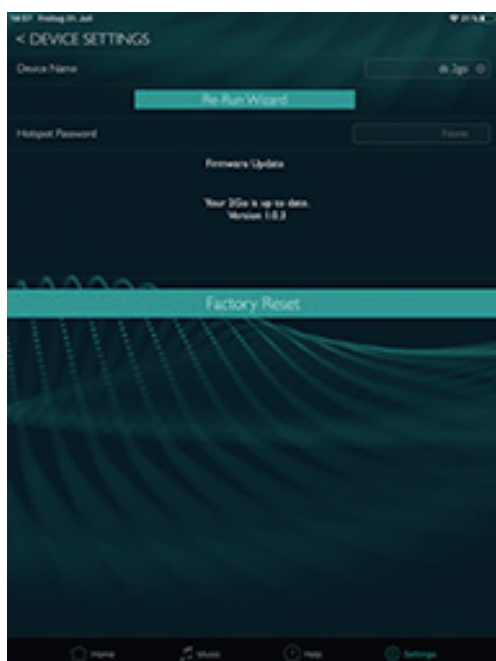
Contrary to all appearances, one could easily come up with the idea of choosing Hugo and 2go as the only domestic streaming solution. This can make sense for the converter, especially in combination with the M-Scaler. So I listen to the HUGO 2 once with the company's own streaming module and signals from the SD card, the other time with my high-end digital chain of Melco, Ansuz and Aries G1. From there it goes directly via USB cable into the HUGO. Well, a cost-no-object-converter, maybe even with an additional upscaler, would perhaps reveal greater tonal differences than the HUGO. But even with the HUGO it becomes clear that the high-class players inspire it to act even more powerful and vividly, but at the same time it is also clear that the 2go comes forbidden close to insane high-end setup.



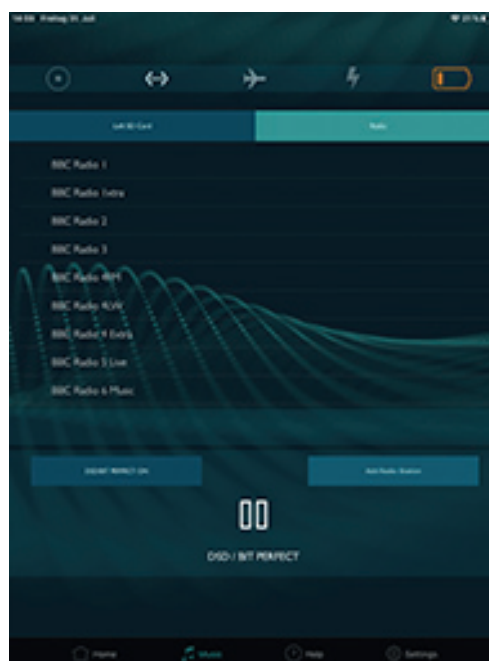
The information in the GoFigure app



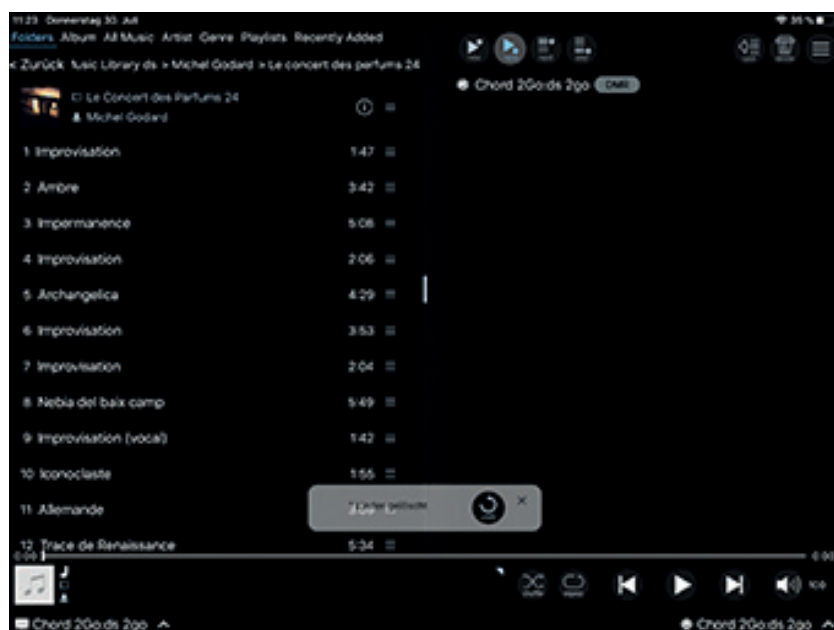
The overview of the most important general settings



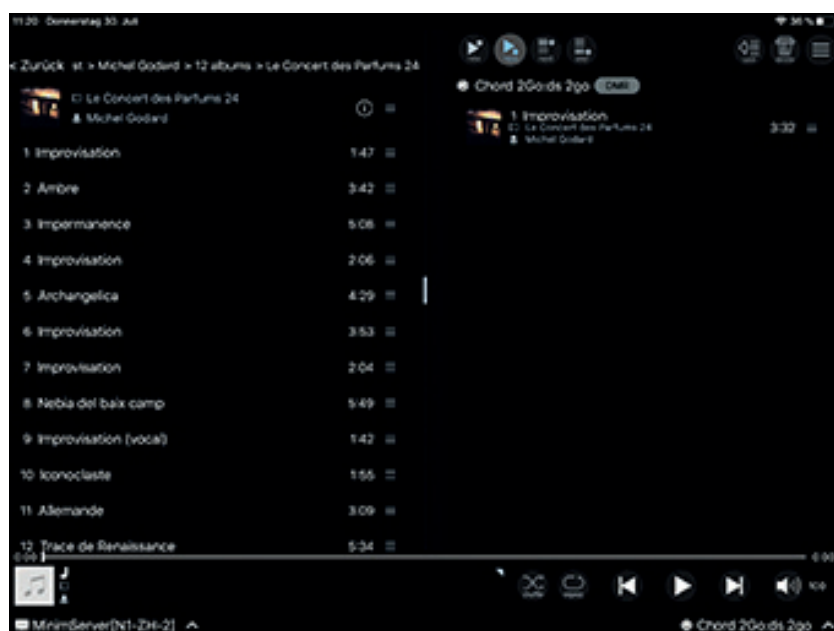
The firmware is up to date



In the GoFigure app, some Internet radio stations are present, others can be added



I used the fidata app to operate it. In the bottom left corner, the location of the music files is shown



The same album this time from the MinimServer of the Melco N1Z H60/2

## STATEMENT

The 2go makes the HUGO 2 an extremely high-class digital audio player. You can get easily over the fact that you still need a smartphone to operate it once you have heard this dream team in a high-quality domestic chain. Chord Electronics' duo convinces portable and stationary. I should have known it: These English high-tech toys immediately proclaim this irresistible "have to have" impulse!

## LISTENED WITH

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NAS              | Melco N1Z H60/2, Melco N1A/2EX-H60, WDMMyCloud                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Streaming Bridge | Auralic G1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Up-Sampler       | Chord Electronics Hugo M-Scaler with Poweradd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| D/A-Converter    | Chord Electronics DAVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| LAN-Switch       | SOTM sNH-10G i with Keces P8, Ansuz PowerSwitch D-TC Supreme                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10-MHz-Clock     | SOTM sCLK-OCX10 with Keces P8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Preamp           | Audio Exklusiv R7, Einstein The Preamp                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Poweramp         | Einstein The Poweramp                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Headphone Amp    | Bryston BHA-1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Headphone        | Audeze LCD-X und EL-8 Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Speaker          | Göbel Epoque Aeon Fine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Cable            | Goebel High End Lacorde Statement, Audioquest Dragon HC, Tornado (HC) and NRG-Z3, Swiss Cables, SOTM dBCL-BNC, Ansuz Digitalz D-TC Supreme and Mainz D2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Accessories      | AHP Klangmodul IV G, Audioquest Niagara 5000 and 1200, Synergistic Research Active Ground Block SE, HMS-wall-socket, Blockaudio C-Lock Lite, Acapella bases, Acoustic System feet und resonators, Artesania Audio Exoteryc, SSC Big Magic Base, Finite Elemente Carbofibre°-HD, Harmonix Real Focus and Room Tuning Disks, Audio Exklusiv Silentplugs, Ansuz Darks D-TC Supreme adjustable |

## HERSTELLERANGABEN

### Hugo TT 2 DAC

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Compatibility:                      | In order for 2go to perform as a fully functional streamer, a connection with Hugo 2 (DAC/Preamp/Headphone amp) or 2yu is required.                                                                                                                                         |
| Power supply:                       | Internal battery with up-to 8hr playback. Desktop mode activated upon insertion of Micro USB charging cable).                                                                                                                                                               |
| Wireless connectivity:              | Long-range 2.4GHz WiFi                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Bluetooth                           | 4.1 A2Dp                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| WiFi modes:                         | Connect to (allows 2go to connect to an existing 2.4GHz WiFi network) or Hotspot mode (activated within the Gofigure app, which allows 2go to broadcast its own WiFi network with SSID and password in the eventuality that the device cannot connect to a static network). |
| Wired connectivity:                 | Gigabit (GbE) ethernet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| PCM and DSD Support:                | 44.1kHz – 768kHz (16bit – 32bit), DSD 64 to DSD 256 (via DoP)                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| File format support:                | ACC, WAV, FLAC, AIFF, OGG VORBIS, ALAC, WMA, MP3 and more...                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Initial setup, config, and updates: | Via free Gofigure app available on iOS and Google Play store                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Music storage:                      | 2x Onboard Micro SD card slots (up-to 4TB of total storage)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Playback:                           | Roon (Endpoint), DLNA (server and render), AirPlay, Bluetooth audio (A2DP), Tidal, Qobuz, Internet radio and more coming...                                                                                                                                                 |
| Gapless playback:                   | Supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## MANUFACTURER

### Chord Electronics

|           |                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
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