

## Model 5421A vs Model 5421 – What’s the Difference?

The Model 5421 is expected to be discontinued and replaced by the Model 5421A. The Model 5421A builds on the strengths of the popular Model 5421 and offers some minor changes and improvements. The Model 5421A will meet or exceed the performance of the Model 5421 and is suitable for all applications originally slated for Model 5421 use.

- **Integrated Circuit and Firmware Changes**

Since it was released in 2020, the Model 5421 Dante® Intercom Audio Engine has utilized the Audinate Broadway integrated circuit to implement its Dante® interface. In 2024 Audinate announced the discontinuation of the Broadway integrated circuit. That effectively ended Studio Technologies' ability to produce more Model 5421 in the future. At the time of Audinate's announcement, a limited number of Broadway devices remained available and the part's expected end-of-life (EOL) was anticipated to be early in 2025. With that concerning information in mind, Studio Technologies developed the Model 5421A Dante Intercom Audio Engine and expects to release units in late 2025. The Model 5421A is very similar to the Model 5421, with the only significant change being to replace the Broadway integrated circuit with the relatively new, and fully supported Brooklyn 3 module from Audinate. (This change of hardware also required a change to the unit's firmware (embedded software).)



Model 5421A Dante Intercom Audio Engine  
Front and Rear Views

- **Pin-for-Pin Compatibility**

The Model 5421A is capable of being used in place of the Model 5421. This new unit is “pin-for-pin” compatible with the Model 5421 and is suitable for use in all applications that were designed to use the Model 5421. To users, the two units are identical, with the lone exception being that the product name now has an “A” appended on its end. This change should only impact purchasing specialist and CAD designers that utilize the model number.

- **Future Advantages**

A “silver lining” did become apparent through this update process. Studio Technologies' having to change from the Broadway integrated circuit to the Brooklyn 3 module actually offered some advantages for the future. Audinate foresees supporting the Brooklyn 3 module for many years, expecting to start providing new Dante capabilities to the Brooklyn 3 module during 2025. While not a certainty, some of these new capabilities may be applicable to the Model 5421A.

### What Hasn't Changed?

The features, configuration choices, and digital audio performance of the Model 5421 have been maintained in the Model 5421A. Any application that could utilize a Model 5421 will find that a Model 5421A can serve as an exact substitute. In addition, the two units are identical in size and weight, still only requiring a PoE Ethernet connection for operation.