



Dante AVIO Install

System Upgrades on Budget



A fully networked audio system built on Dante is the ideal. But when budget is tight, you don't have to replace everything at once. Equipment that still works well can stay in place while the parts driving the upgrade get replaced.

This guide walks through one common version of that: adding a Dante-enabled DSP while the existing 70V/100V playback system stays in place, connected to the network with Dante AVIO Install adapters. Inside, you'll find how to tell whether that playback system is worth keeping, how the adapters bridge it to the new DSP, and what this approach saves up front.

Contents

Is a Phased Upgrade the Right Approach.....	3
Why the DSP Gets Replaced	3
Can the Existing 70V/100V Playback System Be Kept.....	4
Connecting the Existing Amplifiers to a Networked DSP	4
How Dante AVIO Install Adapters Close that Gap.....	5
What This Saves: Equipment	6
What This Saves: Labor	7
Applying This to a Project	7
Ready to spec Dante AVIO Install for your next project?	7



Is a Phased Upgrade the Right Approach

For many projects, a complete upgrade to native Dante is the ideal: fewer devices, a single network for audio and control, and end-to-end visibility. When cost or disruption makes that unrealistic, upgrading in stages lets you start with what delivers the most value now. It works well when one part of the system is holding back the rest, and poorly when the parts depend on each other so closely that upgrading one creates new problems.

Questions worth asking before deciding:

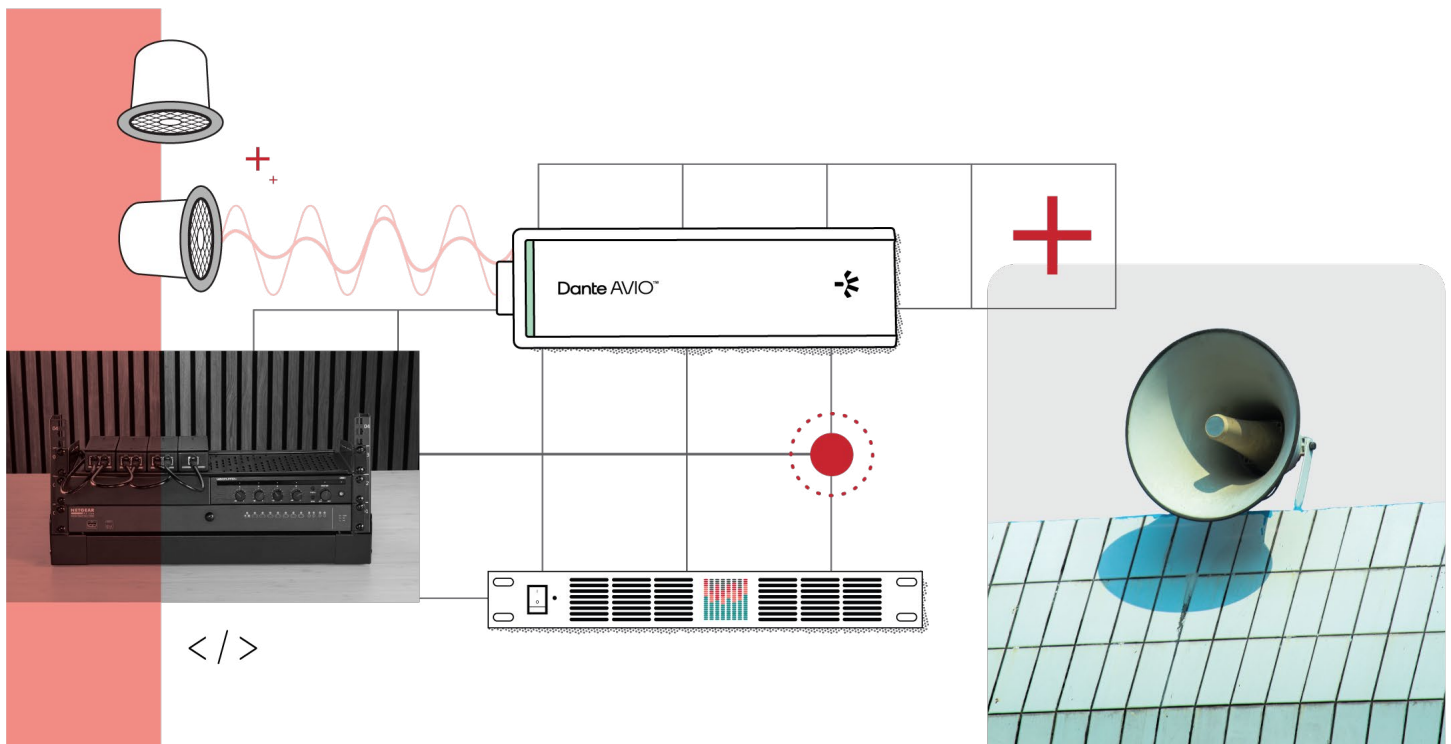
- What is actually driving the upgrade: control and management, audio processing, amplification and coverage, or something else?
- Are the parts staying in place still meeting the space's performance needs?
- Does the new component have a defined way to interface with what is staying in place or does bridging it introduce technical risk?
- Is the cost and disruption of replacing everything actually justified?

Why the DSP Gets Replaced

AV upgrades are typically driven by specific capabilities, not by a desire to add new gear or networked audio-over-IP for its own sake.

For a DSP, common reasons include:

- More processing power for cleaner EQ, feedback suppression, and echo cancellation
- Compatibility with a new control system that better ties into room scheduling, building management systems, or other third-party platforms
- Scene recall and presets instead of manual reconfiguration for different room uses
- Remote and mobile control, instead of only a wall panel or on-unit interface
- Running out of analog I/O as the system expands with new zones or sources
- The existing unit reaching end of life, with parts, firmware, or manufacturer support no longer available



Can the Existing 70V/100V Playback System Be Kept

None of the reasons DSPs get replaced have to do with the 70V/100V system.

That leaves separate questions to work through, about the amplifiers and speakers on their own:

- Are the amplifiers and speakers performing reliably, with no ongoing issues?
- Do the amplifiers and speakers have meaningful service life left, or are they also near end of life?
- Is each amplifier operating within its rated wattage capacity for the speakers it drives?
- Is anything about the current amplification actually limiting the new control system or DSP's capabilities?

If the answers point to the existing playback system still having service life left and performing as expected, keeping it is very likely the lower-cost, lower-disruption path.

Connecting the Existing Amplifiers to a Networked DSP

Modern DSPs are typically networked, for the same reasons as most modern AV and IT equipment: centralized management, remote access, and the ability to scale without new dedicated wiring and ports for every channel. On that network, Dante is typically the protocol used for audio.

That means the new DSP's audio output is Dante, while the existing 70V/100V amplifiers take line-level analog. Connecting the two requires something that converts between the two formats, which is where Dante AVIO Install adapters come in.

How Dante AVIO Install Adapters Close that Gap

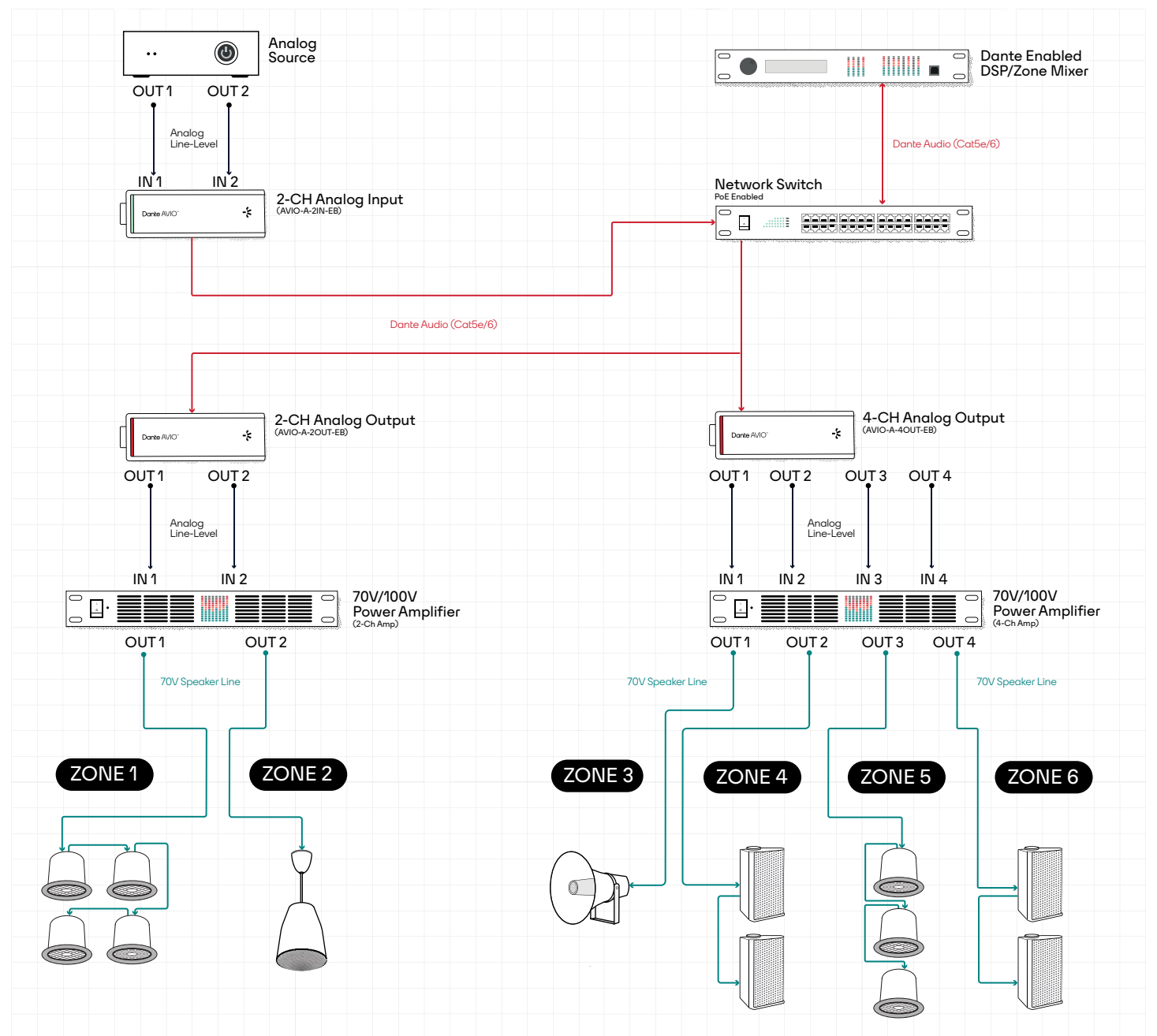
Dante AVIO Install adapters convert the DSP's Dante output back to line-level analog for the amplifiers already in place. Channel count matches the amplifier being bridged: a 2-channel amplifier pairs with the 2-Ch Dante AVIO Install analog output adapter, and a 4-channel amplifier pairs with the 4-Ch analog output adapter, so you're only paying for the channels you actually need.

They're designed specifically for commercial integration with:

- Euroblock screw terminals, built to connect to fixed-install amplifiers
- Included mounting hardware for surface, rail, or post installation
- Powered by standard 802.3af PoE (not PoE+ or PoE++), keeping switch costs down where PoE network infrastructure isn't already in place
- Daisy-chain support allowing up to four adapters to share a single PoE switch port, reducing the switch ports needed for jobs requiring multiple adapters

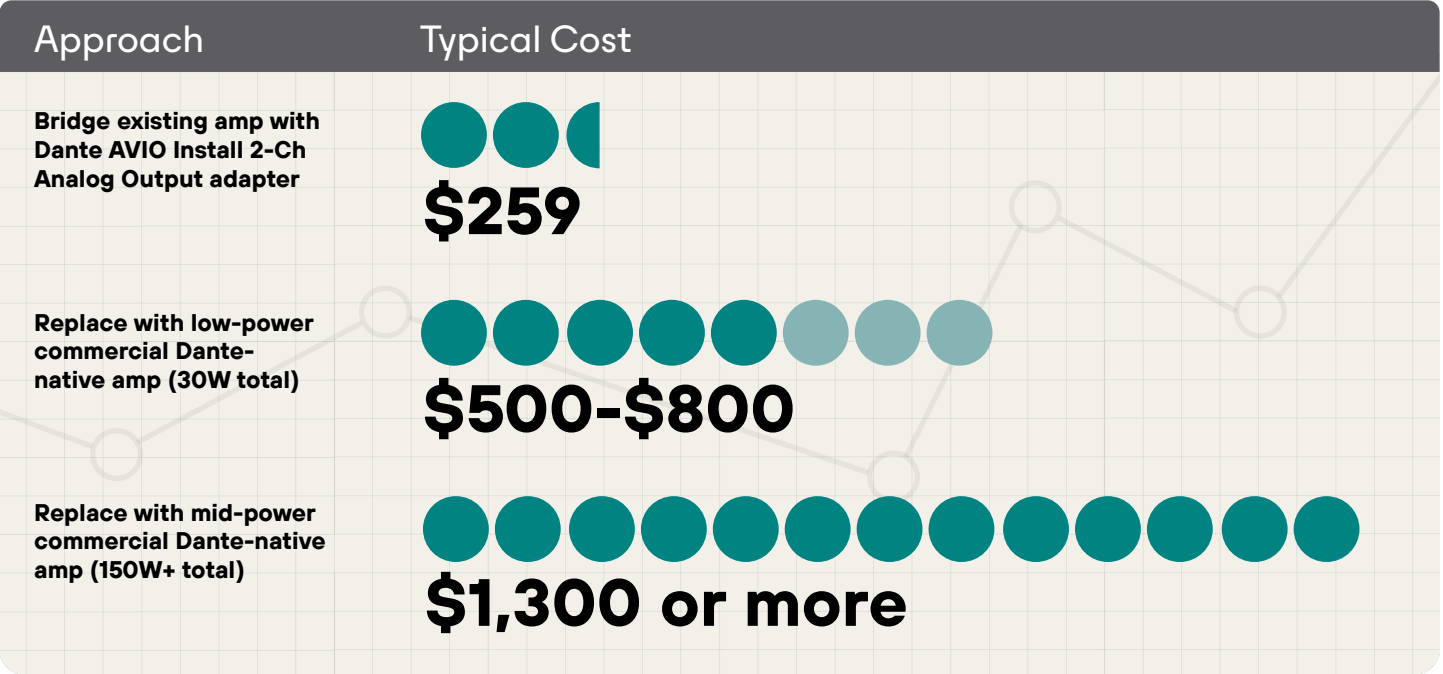
Example System with Dante AVIO Install Adapters

A Dante-enabled DSP sends audio over the network to Dante AVIO Install adapters, which convert it to line-level analog for the existing 70V/100V amplifiers. An analog input adapter brings an analog source, such as a media player or paging system, onto the same network.

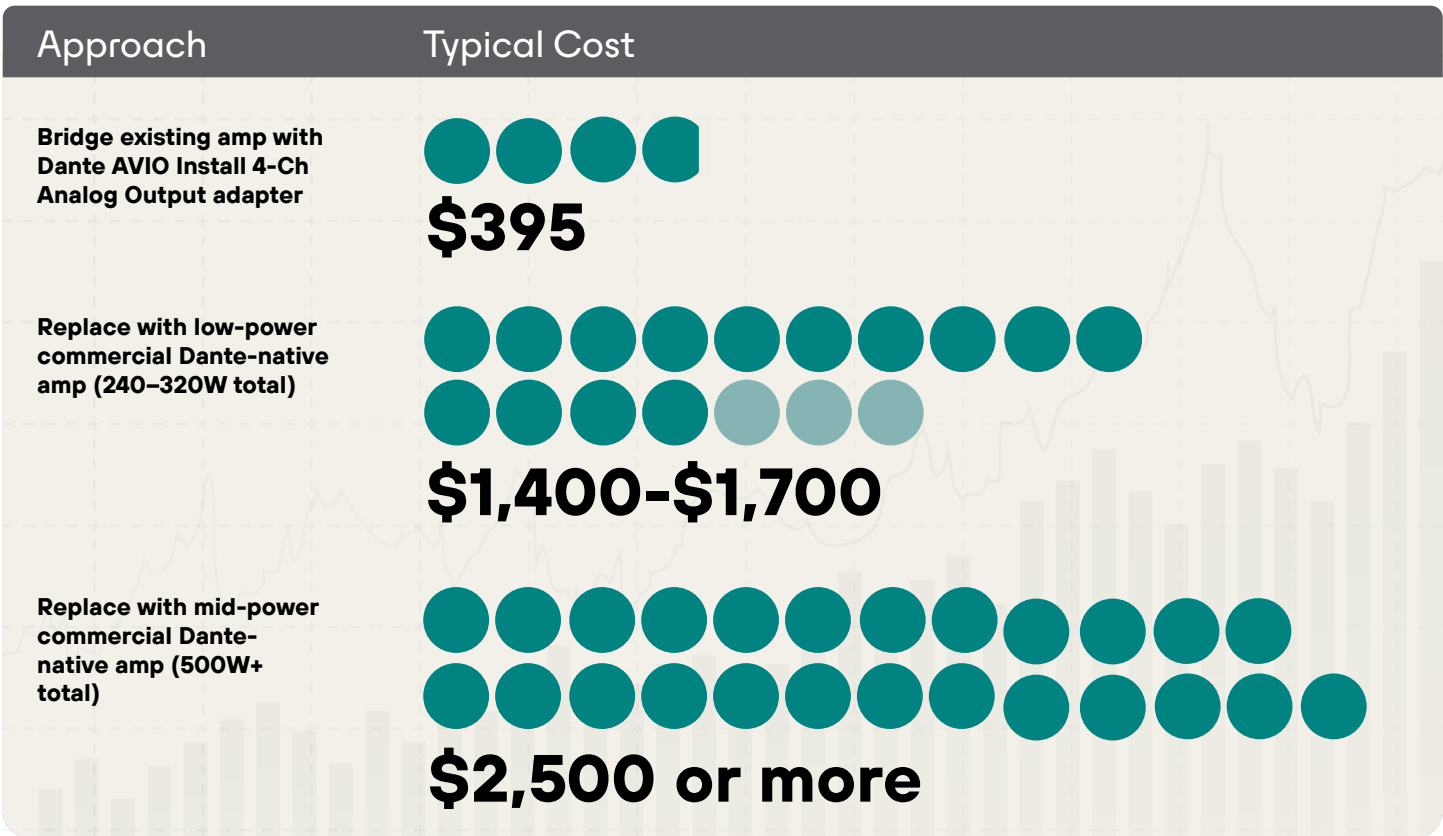


What This Saves: Equipment

2-Ch Equipment Cost Comparison



4-Ch Equipment Cost Comparison



Prices are in USD. Dante AVIO Install adapter pricing reflects Audinate's list price at time of writing. Dante-native amplifier figures are approximate market ranges for commercial-install-grade amplifiers and vary by manufacturer, wattage, and feature set. Actual project pricing will differ.

What This Saves: Labor

Bridging the existing playback system instead of replacing it typically costs less than half as much up front on equipment alone. Beyond that, it also defers labor:

- No removal and disposal of the existing amplifiers and speakers
- No installation and mounting of new amplifiers and speakers
- No new 70V/100V wire pulls from the amplifier to the speakers
- No re-termination at the amplifier outputs or speakers

Applying This to a Project

1. Start with the ideal: evaluate a complete Dante upgrade with native Dante amplifiers or Dante-enabled speakers.
2. If budget or disruption makes that impractical, confirm whether the existing 70V/100V system is performing adequately and has meaningful service life left.
3. If so, bridging it is worth considering instead of full replacement, especially where budget is a constraint.
4. Specify a Dante-enabled DSP for the upgrade, without including existing amplifier or speaker replacement in the project scope.
5. For any new zones, specify native Dante-enabled amplifiers or active speakers.
6. Specify Dante AVIO Install analog output adapters, matched by channel count and quantity to the number of existing amplifiers being bridged, and confirm PoE availability on the switch ports they'll use.

Ready to spec Dante AVIO Install for your next project?

Learn more and find local distributors [here](#).

